



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Arab-Israeli Talks

The peace talks resumed in Washington on Monday, 9 November, following a recess for the U.S. elections. After Monday's talks Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, the head of the Syrian delegation, said that "the formulas proposed by the Israeli side...continue to fall short of meeting the requirements enshrined in the resolutions of international legitimacy," according to Damascus radio. Jerusalem radio reported that Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's chief negotiator, said that his delegation had made no new proposals to Syria and had resisted Syrian attempts to include the term "full withdrawal" in the talks. Jerusalem radio also reported that Israel's negotiator Uri Lubrani used the Israeli-Lebanese session to deliver "a strongly-worded protest" over the recent Katyusha rocket attacks on northern Israel.

Israel

Katyusha rocket attacks from southern Lebanon are continuing, prompting Israel Defense Forces (IDF) troops to concentrate along the northern border, Jerusalem Radio reports. The Galilee suffered several hits but no casualties or major damage. Residents of the northern settlements reported seeing "columns of tank transporters and other heavy military vehicles on the roads leading north." Jerusalem radio adds that the United States delivered a message from Israel to the Syrian and Lebanese delegations to the peace talks warning that Israel "will not be able to tolerate the Katyusha attacks and that the IDF will retaliate if the attacks on the northern border settlements continue."

Jordan

Islamic Deputies Layth Shubaylat and Ya'qub Qirrish were sentenced to 20 years in prison for "belonging to an illegal organization aimed at toppling the regime and possession of unlicensed arms and explosives," Amman Radio reports, adding that death sentences for the two were commuted. Authorities closed all main streets leading to the courthouse to prevent violence. The case has caused more tension between executive and legislative powers, according to KUNA, and the "Islamic trend" in the parliament has issued a statement denouncing the trial. KUNA adds that King Husayn is expected to "intervene" in the case after the court verdict.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israeli Sources Review Progress in Talks

TA1011063492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] Sources in the Israeli delegation to the peace talks expressed the assessment that the Syrians and the Palestinians are in no hurry to make progress, because they are waiting for the change of administration in Washington. Itamar Rabinovich, head of the Israeli delegation to the talks with Syria, told our correspondent in Washington Arye Golan that he does not rule out the possibility that, in the next few weeks, the Syrians will just be going through the motions at the talks.

Sources in the Israeli delegation to the talks with the Palestinians also believe that they are waiting for Clinton. The sources pointed out that the Palestinians avoided any real discussion on the concept of self-rule and refused to budge from their positions on the settlements, Jerusalem, and Security Council Resolution 242. It appears as though they are waiting for Clinton.

As for the talks with the Jordanians, Israeli sources said that they can be met halfway and changes can be made in certain clauses on the agenda dealing with minor issues. The Israeli delegation submitted to Jerusalem several proposals for changes in the wording and is now awaiting instructions in order to reply to the Jordanians.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 10 November, in a similar report on the talks with the Jordanians, adds that "the sources clarified that the changes in the phrasing are not major and that there was no demand to include on the agenda issues such as Jerusalem, the settlements, or the right of return. It was reported that both Israel and Jordan attribute importance to the agreed upon agenda and are not retreating from it."]

Al-'Allaf: Israeli Withdrawal Formulas 'Fall Short'

JN1011080492 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Washington—Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the Middle East peace talks, has stated that the talks in yesterday's meeting, the first since the resumption of the seventh round, focused on the need for Israel to honor its obligations regarding withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. He noted that the formulas proposed by the Israeli side in this regard continue to fall short of meeting the requirements enshrined in the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Following the meeting, al-'Allaf said that the two sides held a serious and lengthy discussion on item No. 3 in the Syrian document, which concerns the executive steps required to achieve peace. The discussions, al-'Allaf

added, basically focused on the need for Israel to honor its obligations regarding withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

Al-'Allaf went on to say that the Israeli side raised, during the meeting, the issue of peace and the correlation between withdrawal and peace, noting that it will carry to today's meeting new Israeli formulas on withdrawal, which could, to a larger extent, meet the requirements of Security Council Resolution 242.

The chief Syrian delegate indicated that there is still a gap between the Syrian position as spelled out by the Syrian document handed to the Israeli delegation during the sixth round of talks and the ideas and formulas presented by the Israeli side in this round.

When asked about the possible issuance of a joint declaration of principles at the end of this round of talks, al-'Allaf said that this issue was raised during the meeting. However, he noted, before a joint declaration is issued, we must agree on the basic elements of such a declaration, something which has not been attained thus far. [passage omitted]

Rabinovich on Chance of Statement With Syria

TA1011083892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Interview with Professor Itamar Rabinovich, head of the Israeli delegation to the talks with Syria, by Arye Golan in Washington on 10 November—recorded]

[Text] [Golan] Professor Rabinovich, will the Israeli delegation bring any new formulations on the withdrawal issue to the next meeting with the Syrians, as was claimed by Muwaffaq al-'Allaf following the first meeting?

[Rabinovich] No. We said at the beginning of this round that we had brought an important new wording. This new wording fueled the discussions during the first half of the round, and I must say that the Syrians were responsive, which enabled the progress we made on the formulations. Upon the resumption of the talks, it became clear that the Syrians very much wanted us to give them a formulation that would include the term full withdrawal. We fended off these attempts and tried to press the Syrians to discuss and clarify the essence of peace, as these are the issues that most interest us. I think that in the meeting President al-Asad held with at least part of the Syrian delegation and which was reported by the Syrian media to have lasted about six hours, he instructed the delegation to return with the formula Syria hopes to achieve, and the Syrian delegation's eagerness to hear that formula following its briefing by the president is so great that the head of the Syrian delegation found it appropriate to tell the media that we had agreed to submit a new formulation. This is simply not accurate.

[Golan] What will happen during the upcoming meetings? Do you see a chance of achieving the long sought for joint statement of principles during the next two weeks of meetings at the State Department?

[Rabinovich] I would like to distinguish between three factors. Objectively speaking, from the point of view of footwork or the basic efforts that go into making such a document possible, I believe that we did most of the work in the previous rounds and that objectively we can attain such a paper. There is also a second interesting point, which is the Syrian's delegation announcement to us today that they would like to conclude this round of talks with such a joint statement. We noted with satisfaction that this seems to be the intention of their policy. However—and the third element features such a caveat—the way they conducted the negotiations today, their insistence on the term full withdrawal, and their making any progress conditional on our employing such a term—all this without their first elaborating on the essence of peace as demanded by us and thereby allaying our fears so that we might be ready to reexamine our formulations and make an effort to clarify or change anything—are not the kind of tactics that will lead the Syrians toward a statement of principles with us. Therefore, tomorrow and in the coming days we shall have to see which of these two elements is the dominant one: the determination to reach a statement of principles or the attempt to secure an ultimatum that is unacceptable to us.

[Golan] Or perhaps the talks will just go through the motions until Bill Clinton enters the White House?

[Rabinovich] I would not rule out that possibility. Clearly this round of talks is being held in the shadow of the election results and the uncertainty on every level of political and diplomatic life here in Washington. As for Syria, its relationship with the United States is very important. Syria enjoyed a close understanding with President Bush and former Secretary of State Baker, and I imagine that right now it feels uncertain regarding the new administration. I would not rule out the possibility that while maintaining a pleasant atmosphere and making progress on minor issues, the Syrians will make no important steps without first sufficiently clarifying for themselves what kind of U.S. administration they are dealing with.

Al-'Allaf on Need for U.S. To Continue Efforts

JN0911204892 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Text] The seventh round of Middle East peace talks resumed after an 11-day hiatus because of the U.S. presidential elections which were held last Tuesday and resulted in electing Bill Clinton and appointing a new administration led by the Democratic Party.

In a statement to reporters before today's meeting, Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation, said

that he hopes the efforts during this round would continue in order to avoid a stalemate in the peace process after the U.S. presidential elections and the change that is soon expected in the U.S. Administration.

Al-'Allaf referred to statements by various parties involved in the talks and by those who called for them on the need to seriously continue the peace talks after the end of the U.S. presidential elections and after the establishment of a new administration with a continuing commitment to the principles on which the peace process is based.

He said that the Syrian side is determined to continue these efforts, noting that it remains for the Israeli side to show such commitment.

Responding to a question on whether he is carrying with him new instructions from Damascus, al-'Allaf said: Our permanent instructions are to seriously and persistently continue the talks until results are achieved.

In response to another question, al-'Allaf said that he hopes the commitment of the new administration, under the leadership of President-elect Bill Clinton, to achieve a comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict will be similar to the commitment shown by the current Bush administration.

Answering a question on whether the absence of the current U.S. Secretary of State James Baker from following up the peace process will have an effect on this process, al-'Allaf said: No one denies the personal efforts by President Bush and Secretary of State Baker. Peace, however, he said, is not only important to the parties directly concerned with the conflict but also to the sponsors of the process, particularly the United States.

He added that he would like the officials of the new administration, who will follow up on the Middle East issue due to the importance of peace to all parties, to show the same determination, effectiveness, and vitality seen in the efforts of Secretary of State Baker.

Lubrani Protests to Lebanese on Rockets Attacks

TA0911190092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Text] The seventh round of Middle East peace talks got under way this afternoon in Washington. The first session between Israeli and Syrian negotiators is still being conducted. Talks with the Palestinians will begin in a few hours.

The negotiations with the Lebanese delegation were brief. The head of the Israeli delegation, Uri Lubrani, delivered a strongly-worded protest over last night's Katyusha attacks on Israel from Lebanese soil. Reporter Dani Gur-Arye spoke a short while ago to the spokeswoman of the Israeli Embassy in Washington, Ruth Yaron, about the talks with the Lebanese:

[Begin recording] [Yaron] In light of these attacks, the talks with the Lebanese this morning were devoted solely to this topic, and our chief negotiator, Mr. Lubrani, has informed the head of the Lebanese delegation that according to his instructions he is advising them the following: Several dozens of Katyusha rockets have been fired into Israeli territory and damaging Israel's property and disturbing the security of our citizens. Therefore, we want to inform them that if there won't be security and quiet in our northern border, then there won't be security and quiet in Lebanon as well, and therefore their citizens might suffer as much as our citizens have been suffering in the past night. We have no intention of looking the other way, and we will address the problem, since we are determined to make sure that our northern border is going to be secure.

This has been the gist of the message that has been conveyed. In light of that, the whole session this morning was pretty short, about an hour, and we do hope that as soon as this problem is taken care of, our northern border secure and quiet again, the negotiators will be able to go back to discuss the topics for which they are here, which is the peace talks.

[Gur-Arye] This session of talks just began a few hours ago, but maybe you can tell me if there is a sense that the atmosphere has changed in light of the U.S. election?

[Yaron] Well, we cannot deny that there is a new atmosphere in town altogether here in Washington and here in the United States in light of the election. However, with regard specifically to the peace negotiations, it is a little too early to feel or to see the change. [end recording]

Shammas on Status of Talks With Israel

NC9811211492 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Telephone interview with Suhayl Shammas, secretary general of the Foreign Ministry and head of the Lebanese delegation to the peace talks with Israel, in Washington, by Rafiq Shilalah, director of the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY, in Beirut, on 9 November—recorded]

[Text] [Shilalah] Your Excellency the Secretary General, good evening.

[Shammas] Good evening.

[Shilalah] We have learned that the first meeting within the new round of Israeli-Lebanese negotiations was halted. There has been conflicting information about the reasons. What exactly happened in Washington today?

[Shammas] The negotiations, of course, were overshadowed by the recent incidents on the Lebanese scene. The meeting started this morning with the Israeli delegation expressing the desire to speak first. At the end of his first remarks, the head of the Israeli delegation asked that we cut the meeting short because the Israeli delegation had

some contacts and consultations to make. He requested that the meetings be delayed until 1100 tomorrow—until 1030, as usual. We told him this depends on the time I will need to prepare a response to his allegations, which did not have a frank and clear basis, especially because the facts contradict what the Israeli delegation presented to us.

In short, the Israeli delegation made what can be described as a threat, implicit in one way and explicit in another. The Israeli delegation pointed out that the Katyusha rockets fired on northern Israel and on the so-called border strip constitute a serious development, and that they, consequently, will not leave the area north of the so-called border strip to rest, and will make the life there difficult and intolerable. We answered them by saying: First, you are giving us an ultimatum, which we do not accept. Second, we stressed that what happened in Lebanon yesterday was a result of Israeli military operations, especially the air raids on 'Ayn al-Tinah Valley on Sunday afternoon. Four Lebanese were killed and six others wounded in the raids, which were totally unjustified. We frankly made it clear to them that Lebanese blood is very dear, that it has watered Lebanese soil, and that the Lebanese victims are good Lebanese citizens defending their lands. I stressed to them that as long as the Israeli occupation of Lebanese territory continues, the Lebanese Government and people will shoulder the responsibility of confronting and ending this occupation, using all available means including political, diplomatic, and other means approved by the UN Charter and international conventions, especially the rules of the universally accepted international law, which cannot be bargained over. We also stressed to them that all acts in the Lebanese arena result, above all, from the Israeli occupation of part of the dear Lebanese territory, and that if they intend to end this situation, they have to seriously discuss with us an end of this occupation and to look for effective ways and means to realize this goal.

I can describe the meeting, though cut short, as tough, with the Israeli delegation returning to its old position on the need for us to sign a treaty with Israel. We rejected such a position, and we explained our principled position—namely, the need for them to withdraw from Lebanese territory and implement Resolution 425.

[Shilalah] Your Excellency, does this mean that there is a threat that the negotiations will be halted if the Israeli position remains intransigent?

[Shammas] To say that the negotiations may be suspended is a description that might not be consistent with reality. The Israelis have said that they will continue negotiating with us and that this decision is not subject to change. Certainly our instructions from Beirut are clear. The Lebanese will continue the peace process. No escalation of Israeli military action will affect our resolve to do this. The Israeli position always has sought by all methods to embarrass the Lebanese delegation and drive it out of the peace operation. They have not succeeded. This is our position: We are committed to clear national

constants, and we have guidance from the state on all subjects. We have great trust in our rights. All the Israelis have to do is withdraw from our territories and after that they can discuss with us the other methods of pursuing the peace process.

[Shilalah] Your Excellency, it has been reported that you contacted Edward Djerejian, assistant U.S. secretary of state for Middle East affairs, to inform him of what happened during the session of negotiations today. Do you have any information to give us about this contact?

[Shammas] Assistant Secretary Djerejian telephoned me and questioned me last night on the deteriorating situation in south Lebanon and western al-Biqa'. I returned the call and put him in the right picture. I again telephoned Djerejian this morning to continue this discussion. I agreed with him that I and the members of the Lebanese delegation would meet him at 1400 Washington time today and discuss the threat to the peace process in general, and the Lebanese-Israeli talks in particular, inherent in the deteriorating situation in the south.

[Shilalah] Your Excellency, one last question if you please. Following Bill Clinton's victory in the U.S. presidential election, have you sensed any change in the U.S. enthusiasm to intervene when necessary or to follow up on the negotiations?

[Shammas] This morning we began the second phase of the seventh round of negotiations. It is too early to make any observations or any accurate expectations on this matter. What I can rely on is that the commitment is a U.S. commitment. President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker made certain pledges in the letters of assurances—Lebanon received one of these letters—and in the letters containing the invitations to attend the peace conference. These letters included clear U.S. commitments. President Bush will remain in power until 20 January 1993. He and his administration are still supervising the negotiations. President-elect Clinton has proclaimed his commitment to the peace process. Hence, we are proceeding on the understanding that the U.S. commitment will continue. In my personal view, the United States inaugurated the peace process because it has a vital stake in its success. I hope that when President-elect Clinton assumes actual power he will show the same commitment to this process and use all possible methods to ensure its success. If the U.S. position changes for any reason whatever, we will deal with that when it happens. I see no sign that such a development will take place. What can happen, however, is a go-slow process by one side or the other. The reason would be an attempt to explore positions. However, as long as the negotiations are proceeding, let us leave matters until the end of this seventh round of talks on 19 November. Then I will hold discussions with you, brother Rafiq, and with the listeners to assess the outcome.

[Shilalah] Thank you, Your Excellency the Secretary General.

[Shammas] If you have any questions you want to ask in order to clarify matters, I am ready to listen. I do not want any distortion to take place. The Israeli side is trying to embarrass us and drive us out of the process. We will not get caught in this pitfall.

[Shilalah] Anyhow, Lebanese positions are constant, as Your Excellency remarked. What remains is for the Israelis to show goodwill by continuing the negotiations.

[Shammas] We have sensed no goodwill so far. The opposite is true.

[Shilalah] Thank you, Secretary General.

Al-'Allaf Meets With Djerejian

JN1011090792 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0815 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] Washington—Edward Djerejian, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, yesterday met with Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the Middle East peace talks. Syrian Ambassador in Washington Walid al-Mu'allim attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed the prospects for the second stage of the ongoing seventh round of talks. They also reviewed what took place during the first day of this stage.

Djerejian renewed the present U.S. Administration's commitment to give momentum to the peace process regardless of the election result. He noted that President-elect Bill Clinton stressed his determination to continue work to support the peace process. Djerejian also noted that this peace process comes at the top of the agenda of the new administration's foreign policy.

Israeli Delegation Leaves for Refugee Talks

TA1011111692 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Nov 92 p A3

[ITIM report]

[Text] "Israel does not accept the Arab claims regarding the right of return. This is not the issue on the agenda of the multilateral committee on the refugee issue which is to convene in Ottawa, Canada. The issue is improving the refugees' living conditions in terms of health, economy, housing, and professional training." These remarks were made yesterday by Professor Shlomo Ben-'Ami, head of the Israeli delegation to the Ottawa talks, who left yesterday morning for Canada accompanied by Yohanan Bein, deputy director general of the Foreign Ministry.

The Ottawa talks are to open tomorrow and will last two days.

Prof. Ben-'Ami further said that "to the best of our knowledge, there is no clear stand prevailing among the Arab delegations regarding the right of return. If they

raise the issue of compensation for the refugees, Israel will offer to pay reparations only after a discussion on the issue that would include reciprocal write-offs regarding what rightfully belongs to Jews who immigrated from Arab countries and other refugees. This will be based on the establishment of international funds to pay such reparations."

In anticipation of an attempt by the Arab delegations to propose a scheme to reunite those exiled in 1948 and 1967 with their families in Ramallah and Hebron and, perhaps, in other locations, Israel will present its stand: Nearly 200,000 family reunification permits have been issued since 1967, based on a humanitarian agreement with the Jordanian Government. Israel agrees to discuss and work for the improvement of the refugees' living conditions, including full rehabilitation.

Israel has a wide range of interim proposals, such as the development of water resources, professional training, housing, health, education, employment, and others. Israel will stress that the responsibility for the rehabilitation process falls not only to Israel but also to the Arab countries.

In response to a question, Prof. Ben-Ami said that the multilateral committee will be attended by 35 countries, "and we want to prevent this from becoming a quasi-UN forum, because our aim is to direct the discussions toward the improvement of the refugees' quality of life and toward finding the appropriate ways to do this in the future."

Israel did not attend the first Ottawa meeting. The Americans have made it clear that the Palestinians promised to avoid mentioning the right of return clause in the upcoming round and thereby avoid a crisis in the talks.

"We will have to work hard to curb any Arab attempt to raise issues that are not on the agenda," Ben-Ami said.

Palestinian Affairs

'Ashrawi Views Peace Talks, Clinton Impact

NC0911134492 *Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic* 0610 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Telephone interview with Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, official spokeswoman of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, in Washington, by Fawzi al-Jindi in Cairo; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [al-Jindi] We begin this dialogue by establishing the most important points the Palestinian side wants to assert as it resumes this seventh round of talks.

['Ashrawi] The most important areas remain the point of reference of the political process, Security Council Resolution 242, establishing the principle of withdrawal, geographic authority [al-wilayah al-jughrafiyah], and applying these negotiations to a clearly defined spot of

land. There is also the concept of the transition, the interim self-government, the issue of land, Jerusalem, and the settlements. Afterwards, we will discuss various other issues concerning the interim self-government's structure, duties, and jurisdiction.

[Al-Jindi] With this seventh round resuming in Washington in a few hours, an important development presents itself—the outcome of the U.S. presidential election and the arrival of Democratic candidate Bill Clinton in the White House. Do you believe Clinton's election will favor the peace process as George Bush's term in the White House did?

['Ashrawi] We expect the peace process and negotiations to continue, because they are part of official U.S. policy. They are not subject to change and no party or individual can alter them.

Naturally, objective changes, such as installing a new president, affect the process by changing pace and priorities. Any new president will focus on domestic issues on the basis of which he was elected. There are issues, such as the U.S. economy, health, the environment, and education, that concern the U.S. voter. President-Elect Clinton was not elected on the basis of foreign policy. There will be a period in which the new president will adjust to the situation, because the new administration is not familiar with international or foreign affairs in the same way the previous administration was. We expect to see attempts during this transition to speed up the process or to reach preliminary accords that may give momentum to the process so that it will continue.

Earlier we heard statements from Israeli officials, including Rabin and Peres, announcing that they do not expect any progress at this stage, despite the U.S. side being concerned about making progress now. This means there is a lack of intention on the part of the Israelis to achieve progress.

[Al-Jindi] Do you believe Israel will use this transition—I mean the handover of authority from Bush to Clinton—to slow down the peace process?

['Ashrawi] It would seem so, because as I said, we have heard various statements. There are other factors, such as the scandal involving AIPAC [American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee], the biggest pro-Israeli lobby in the United States. Obviously, they will use this transition period to reach positions of authority and influence in this new administration and to make room for their interests within U.S. policy and issues. They also want to improve their position with the new president. It is likely they will try to prevent considerable progress and exploit the transition for their own purposes and to strengthen their position.

[Al-Jindi] Bill Clinton is expected to spend a long time studying the Middle East file so that he can understand the views of Israeli and Arab sides on this issue. Israel, by its nature, is keen to play for time. What is the Palestinian side's plan to deal with these two points?

[Ashrawi] Of course we are ready to make progress, because all of us, as Arab parties, entered the negotiations to achieve progress—not to play for time—while Israel tries to play for time to create a situation that is incompatible with the process' goals. We will try to deal with the old and new administrations to make progress, but you know we need reciprocal dealing from the Israeli side. If they are not committed to progress, the negotiations will proceed slowly.

[Al-Jindi] Some observers have noted the Palestinians showing fear that the Syrian side may reach a settlement with the Israelis on Golan. What is your response, as the seventh round resumes in a few hours?

[Ashrawi] Frankly, we do not oppose progress on other tracks. We know there is an Arab commitment to a comprehensive solution and to not signing any separate bilateral deals. This commitment is a safeguard while there is a unified Arab vision, stand, and commitment to serving the Palestinian cause and to not abandoning or isolating it. While this commitment exists and coordination and a unified stand continue, we believe that any progress on any track serves the interests of other paths and prepares the atmosphere for progress in other areas, as long as such progress is carefully studied and in line with the unified Arab position.

[Al-Jindi] Some observers believe that at this stage, the Palestinians are seeking to unite the Palestinian factions first so that they might deal with the new facts of the peace process. What is your comment?

[Ashrawi] National unity is a fundamental factor and basis for the political work and toil of continuing the Palestinian struggle. We regard the political process as part of the political strife and have been working from the beginning for a unified national stand. National unity is not only a demand, but a goal through which much can be achieved.

'Arafat Discusses Clinton Victory, Peace Process
PM101111/1992 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 7 Nov 92 pp 1, 4

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasser 'Arafat by Khayrallah Khayrallah in Tunis on 3 November]

[Text] [Khayrallah] What is your comment on the election of Bill Clinton as president of the United States?

[Arafat] As far as we are concerned we have dealt with all U.S. presidents, Democrats and Republicans, but we now face President Clinton, who will assume power in 10 weeks. He has talked a lot about human rights and about democracy. We want to see human rights and democracy in Palestine. Also, were the promises and the statements he made during the election campaign, especially on Jerusalem, mere promises and statements in an election

campaign? I hope that these promises and statements were made only for election campaign purposes, not for implementation.

[Khayrallah] Is Jerusalem the test?

[Arafat] As far as we are concerned, Jerusalem is not just a Palestinian issue. It is a Palestinian, Arab, Islamic, and Christian issue. These parties cannot possibly accept the Israeli claim that Jerusalem is the eternal capital of Greater Israel. Arab Jerusalem, which was occupied in 1967, is the capital of the state of Palestine. At this point, we hope that the old and the new U.S. administrations are capable of making the important decision to resume the dialogue with the PLO. Whenever we raised that issue they told us: "After the elections, after the elections, after the elections." The promised year of (bilateral) negotiations, which began on 30 October last year, has passed. The transitional period is supposed to start now, or rather on 30 October 1992. As nothing has been achieved on the Palestinian track, I have addressed the peace conference cosponsors, the Security Council permanent members, the EC, Japan, Canada, the Non-aligned states, the African states, the Islamic states, and the Arab states, saying that the time is now ripe for the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 603, 607, 608, 681, and 728 on appointment of a permanent UN representative, which Yitzhak Shamir rejected at the time, and the appointment of UN observers to protect the Palestinian people, monitor the situation in the occupied territory, and also monitor any legislative elections that might take place in our occupied territory.

[Khayrallah] The Palestinian delegation is going to the negotiations, is it not?

[Arafat] That matter is under discussion. The decision will be made today or tomorrow (Thursday or Friday). The Palestinian leadership will have a meeting with representatives of the negotiating delegation. We will discuss the situation following the U.S. elections, particularly as we have achieved nothing at all on the Palestinian track. That does not mean that we want to boycott the peace process, but we and the Palestinian people have a right to pause and assess the matter one year after the start of the peace process, and now that the U.S. elections are over.

[Khayrallah] In brief, are you optimistic?

[Arafat] I at least hope that the U.S. Administration will not delay in tackling the Middle East question on the pretext that it wishes to study the file. This is something not only I but others expect to happen.

[Khayrallah] Do you have any comment on the Jordanian-Israeli agreement regarding the negotiating agenda between the two?

[Arafat] Please, spare me that question... Actually that issue is under discussion by the Palestinian leadership.

We started that this (Thursday) morning. A Palestinian delegation will go to Amman carrying the full Palestinian view on the matter.

[Khayrallah] Any observations?

[Arafat] Observations, or our opinion of the matter?

[Khayrallah] What specific points do you have observations about, other than the issues of the refugees and the mandate borders, in the agreement?

[Arafat] We have many points that will be drafted into a memorandum to be sent with the Palestinian delegation to our Jordanian brothers.

[Khayrallah] Is it true that you have compared the Hamas movement to the South African Zulu tribes, which are considered loyal to the regime there?

[Arafat] Yes, yes, but I said that Hamas was playing the part of the Inkatha Zulu tribes, not all the Zulu tribes. I was talking about the Inkatha Zulu tribes led by Buthelezi.

[Khayrallah] What are they called?

[Arafat] Inkatha Zulu tribes. That, regrettably, was because, having failed democratically, Hamas has resorted to arms. We entered the elections in 29 electoral units. The results in 26 units were in favor of the PLO, regardless of whether the units were chambers of commerce, chambers of agriculture, women's unions, trade unions, engineering unions, student unions, lawyers associations, or other associations. When they failed to win victory on the democratic level, to our surprise they resorted to arms in Gaza. We have been very patient with them and we have told them that Palestinian traditions do not allow recourse to arms. We have had disagreements with many of our brothers within the PLO, and we still do, but they are National Council members, and dialogue is what we adhere to. Democracy is our umbrella and the shield that protects us. We are surprised to be faced with the same situation as faces Nelson Mandela in South Africa.

[Khayrallah] But you have said that you are not Mandela.

[Arafat] I have said that there is a limit to patience. One cannot be patient about the use of arms against the Palestinian people, particularly as arms were raised against entire families in the Gaza Strip. That is why they lost the support of the people, bearing in mind that they did not use these arms against the Israeli enemy. I ask: Did we not fight for our independent national Palestinian decisionmaking at the Arab level? Having done so, are we to accept Iranian trusteeship over us? They recently concluded an agreement in Iran with provisions for a transmitter, financing, and armament. Why, if they are not fighting the Israelis? Ninety percent of the detainees are ours, the martyrs are ours, and the wounded are ours.

[Khayrallah] There are some complaints in Palestinian circles maintaining that the PLO organs in the occupied territory are inadequate.

[Arafat] Who said that? How can the organs that sweep 26 electoral units in the West Bank and Gaza be inadequate?

[Khayrallah] So you are satisfied?

[Arafat] No. Nothing is without negative aspects. We are fighting the negative aspects and we have enough courage to admit that we have negative aspects. Is there any work that is free of negative aspects? But there can be no doubt that the positive aspects outweigh the negative aspects, otherwise the PLO would not have been able to sustain the intifadah, which enters its sixth year next month. Could people sustain their intifadah for five years if the positive aspects were not greater than the negative aspects?

'Abbas Says Bush Administration 'More Capable'

JN0311101492 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 3 Nov 92 p 11

[Interview with Mahmud 'Abbas, member of the PLO Executive Committee, by unidentified correspondent—date, place not given]

[Text] [AL-RA'Y] What were the main topics of discussion during your meeting with the Jordanian prime minister?

[Abbas] The meeting with the prime minister was important. We comprehensively reviewed the first part of the seventh round of negotiations as well as preparations for the second part of this round within the framework of Jordanian-Palestinian coordination, which requires such meetings. We also discussed the subject of Arab solidarity in general and His Majesty King Hassan's tour of the region in the hope of restoring Arab solidarity. We in the PLO hope that King Hassan's efforts will be crowned with success, that an Arab summit meeting will be held, and that the Arabs will overcome their past ordeal and turn over a new bright page in inter-Arab relations based on strong and solid pillars preventing the recurrence of past tragedies.

[AL-RA'Y] It is being said that progress has been made during this round of negotiations. Does the Palestinian leadership believe there is progress?

[Abbas] We cannot say there was practical progress on the Palestinian track. However, we can say that during the informal sessions the two sides explored each other's viewpoints. This will help crystallize practical negotiable stands once the Israeli side shows an understanding of the Palestinian demands and demonstrates flexibility in dealing with these demands and an appreciation of the Palestinian stand which truly seeks a just and lasting peace. Consequently, the Israeli side should stop its

maneuvers and prevarication intended to engage in marginal details and avoid the essence of the negotiations.

[AL-RA'Y] Do you think the level of representation should be upgraded? What is your position on holding meetings with Israeli officials?

[Abbas] We have confidence in our negotiating team which represents us and all the Palestinian people. We have previously talked at length about direct contacts between the PLO and Israel and demanded such contacts. President Yasir 'Arafat announced more than once that he is ready to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, but the Israeli side did not respond and continued to insist that it would talk only to the people of the West Bank and Gaza, excluding Jerusalem and the Palestinians abroad. Israel will thus be mistaken if it really seeks a comprehensive peace. We do not object to meeting with Israeli officials. What prevents such meetings is an Israeli Knesset law which bans any Israeli from meeting with PLO members. This law was enacted in response to the contacts that were going on between the Israelis and us.

[AL-RA'Y] How do you view the U.S. position, and do you believe the United States should interfere to advance the peace process?

[Abbas] We still request and urge the Americans to play a more effective role and to intervene to advance the negotiations and not wait until the negotiations begin or interfere only when they are obstructed, as is their current policy. We want them, along with the other sponsor, the Russians, to be in the heart of the negotiations in order to give them momentum. We also still believe that there is no reason for the United States to continue its boycott of the PLO. We demand an end to this estrangement.

[AL-RA'Y] How do you view the U.S. elections, and what effect do you think they will have on the peace process?

[Abbas] We do not interfere in the U.S. presidential elections. But we believe that President George Bush's administration, which has been involved in the peace process from its very beginning and understands its minutest details, is more capable than any other party to pursue this process. If Democratic candidate Clinton wins the elections, his administration will need at least six months to one year to assimilate and understand the file.

[AL-RA'Y] The Palestinian command will hold a meeting on 5 November. Of what importance is this meeting?

[Abbas] This meeting is within the context of periodic meetings by the Palestinian command. But this meeting is somewhat special because some of the members of the Palestinian negotiating team will attend, as was the case

during the PLO Central Council meetings, to carry out a joint assessment of the results of the first part of the seventh round.

[AL-RA'Y] How do you view the progress on the Jordanian-Israeli track and on the Syrian-Israeli track?

[Abbas] What was agreed by the brothers in Jordan is just an unofficial draft working agenda and needs further discussion. If the two parties approve it, it will be followed by negotiations. We will not be offended if some progress is achieved on one of the tracks but not on the others. As Arabs, we all should benefit from the progress on this or that track, as this would support the other tracks, especially since we, as Arabs, do agree that what we want to attain is a comprehensive solution to the Middle East issue. This commitment has been highlighted more than once through the coordination meetings that were held in Beirut, Amman, and Damascus.

[AL-RA'Y] Is there any progress worth mentioning on the level of Palestinian-Gulf relations?

[Abbas] In terms of the brotherly atmosphere that prevails, I believe that there is some sort of improvement in relations with the Gulf countries. Steps are being taken and will materialize in the not too distant future. We are more than eager to overcome the causes that led to this estrangement and to restore Arab relations in general, and relations with the brothers in the Gulf in particular, to their previous level.

[AL-RA'Y] Are there any developments in the relationship with the Hamas Movement?

[Abbas] We invited the Hamas Movement for a dialogue after the regrettable incidents. They first agreed to this, but later changed their mind on the pretext that they heard someone say a word against them here and there. We still extend our hands to them because we do not doubt their patriotism and their concern over the Palestinian cause. However, we say that each of us has his own interpretation and we invite them for a dialogue to reach agreement on some points and to differ on others. But to resort to daggers, chains, and weapons will not benefit any of us. It will only benefit the enemy.

Delegate Sees Possible Change in U.S. Stand

NC0711080092 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Telephone interview with Dr. Sami al-Kilani, professor at al-Najah University in Nabulus and member of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talk, by Shadiyah Riyad; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Riyad] Dr. al-Kilani, most Arab officials are saying that there will be no change in the U.S. strategy toward the Middle East. However, there is a change inside the United States, which is one of the sponsors of the peace process. Bush has gone and Clinton has come;

the Republicans have gone and the Democrats have come. Will this not affect the peace process?

[Al-Kilani] I expect that the peace process and the U.S. involvement in this process stem from an examination of the strategic interests of the United States. This examination, I believe, is not governed by this or that administration, but by ideas and studies made by the U.S. strategic establishment, which outlines White House policy. However, some changes may take place as far as the nature of this involvement in the peace process is concerned. Certainly with a new administration in power, it will take some time for it to acclimatize and study the files.

[Riyad] Had the peace talks been positive and an actual agreement taken place, do you think this would have affected the U.S. elections and Bush's standing?

[Al-Kilani] One point President Bush relied on was his foreign policy achievements. He could have scored more points had tangible success been achieved in this process. This would have boosted his campaign rating. However, one cannot speculate now on whether these points could have put him ahead of Clinton or not, particularly since, as everybody knows, people in the United States are more interested in economic and domestic issues. Any points scored from foreign policy have to involve a major and important accomplishment, such as what happened to President Bush during the Gulf war. Although the war gave him impetus, this impetus did not last long enough to score points in the race for the White House.

[Riyad] The Bush administration has approximately two months before power is transferred to Clinton. Observers remember the Reagan administration's decision to begin the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue while Reagan was preparing to leave the White House. Do you believe Bush could make a similar step in the next two months?

[Al-Kilani] Generally speaking, I believe the ground is paved for the resumption of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, and the basis for this dialogue has existed for months. There are relations between the PLO and the United States, even if unofficially. The United States knows that the PLO is leading the talks along the Palestinian track. Thus, I believe that such a decision is possible and the groundwork for it is available. The U.S. President is now free of the pressures of the election campaign, during which all his policies were dictated by the votes. So such a decision is possible. As I said, the basis for it is available and the U.S. President has freed himself of the burden of votes. I do not rule it out.

[Riyad] It is reported that Baker is currently planning a tour of the Middle East in early December in an attempt to work out an agreement; that is, the goal is predetermined. Do you believe Baker can achieve such a goal and achieve something tangible that could go down in history in favor of Bush and his administration at the end of his term? Could he do something?

[Al-Kilani] Without coordinating with the next administration, I do not believe that Baker or the U.S. Administration, during this interim period, could make such a step. If there is an agreement on such a step between the current administration and the new administration, as represented by Clinton and whomever he chooses as secretary of state, it is possible, but without such coordination, I do not think so. This is particularly so since some parties to the conflict in the region, with their eyes focused on the next administration, have no interest in letting Bush or Baker realize such an achievement. To be more specific, the Israeli side is calculating what it can give to the new administration, what it can get in return, and what to expect. Thus, I do not believe that President Bush or Baker could embark on such a step without coordination with the new administration. [passage omitted]

[Riyad] Have you sensed anything regarding the new administration and how serious it will be in promoting the peace process?

[Al-Kilani] At least so far, the statements made by this administration and the stands expressed by key figures in the U.S. Democratic Party confirm that the peace talks will be followed up and sponsored with the required attitude and no less commitment than the previous administration. The Democratic Party gave similar signals during the campaign. Clinton's statements, which balance Israel's security with recognition of the Palestinian right to self-determination, can be taken seriously and positively. If these messages are added to the letter of invitation to the peace conference as well as commitment to the UN and Security Council resolutions, I believe they can be viewed as positive indications, and I hope they will actually turn out to be positive signals. [passage omitted]

Radio Views Prospects for Dialogue With Clinton

LD0911204992 *Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1702 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Brothers, will the administration of U.S. President-Elect Bill Clinton resume the dialogue with the PLO when it officially assumes power on 20 January?

The brother President Abu-'Ammar points out in an interview with the London-based AL-HAYAH newspaper on 7 November that American promises in this respect talked about postponing resumption of the dialogue until after the presidential elections. Since these elections are now over, what is the extent of realizing the verbal promises, and transforming them into actual reality in the context of the continuous political negotiations on the path of fulfilling and making the peace process in the region successful?

At any rate, the dialogue ceased in June 1990 after it had continued for 18 months between Palestinian Ambassador Hakam Bal'awi and his American counterpart

Robert Pelletreau in Tunisia. It became clear at that time that the excuse for Washington's decision to stop or suspend the dialogue was illogical, unless it was, in its political interpretation, a submission to the Israeli Likud Party at that time. Perhaps it was also a preparation for besieging the PLO, to put pressure on it only a few months before the destructive second Gulf War.

Despite that, and without any need to go back to the old reasons and excuses, we live in a phase with all its potentials and capabilities for change and development. The Likud has fallen in Israel, as the Republicans have fallen in the United States. However, before that, the peace process had been established on the bases of the UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, and a broad international mechanism had also been established to achieve the political settlements in the whole world on the bases of international legitimacy.

Accordingly, Clinton's administration is in fact prepared to meet those capabilities and potentials for change and development inside and outside the United States in the same manner, and in the same amount, as Clinton himself affirms; as his principal worries are the internal problems in his country, he is by the same token aware of the interrelationship between U.S. domestic and foreign affairs, through its responsibility as the sole superpower in the whole world, and by necessity, its responsibility as a sponsor of the peace process. [sentence as heard]

On that basis, we see that the road is paved for the restoration and resumption of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue in a way which serves the interests of all sides, and through it, and on top of it, the interests of peace, democracy, justice, and the human and political rights of the peoples of the region.

Paper Calls for 'Reconciliation' To Face Clinton

PM0911153592 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 6 Nov 92 p 11

[Editorial: "The United States Has Chosen Change. Will the Arabs Change Too?"]

[Text] A large sector of the Arab population has a right to be annoyed and worried about the election of Bill Clinton as the new U.S. President. During his election campaign he made statements clearly taking Israel's side and talked about recognizing holy Jerusalem as Israel's united capital. Passing hasty judgement on the man in this transition period, however, would increase his partiality and intransigence—not decrease it, as some people imagine—particularly in view of the current state of Arab division.

Therefore the first step that the Arabs should take in the face of the new U.S. administration is to begin to change, to change the current situation, and to rise to the level of the U.S. change reflected from the base to the top.

The required Arab change is to embark on a series of moves to convene an Arab summit conference to discuss

all differences clearly and frankly. That would, perhaps, end the estrangement and promote reconciliation, even if only partial reconciliation. It would be illogical for us to remain the same without any change while the whole world around us changes.

The new U.S. President will respect this nation as much as it respects its land and its history, and he will deal with it on the basis of his country's economic and political interests. The more this nation sticks to its fixed principles, the better it succeeds in minimizing the losses even if it cannot make gains.

From now on we should take into consideration the fact that the Palestinian cause represents the common ground on which the Arabs could unite, and it could be the key to good or bad relations with the United States and its new administration. Not forfeiting the legitimate Arab rights in Palestine and insisting on the restoration of Jerusalem and its holy places to Arab sovereignty are among the most important of these fixed principles.

With insistence on these principles, neither Clinton nor anyone else should be feared. Many U.S. presidents have tried to ignore Arab rights but have failed.

There can be no doubt that, as a Democrat, Clinton will go back to his party's legacy in the Middle East. He will find that the Camp David agreements are the most significant part of that legacy. He is not unlikely to initiate moves similar to former President Jimmy Carter's moves. The rumors that Carter might be appointed as envoy to the Middle East and to the peace negotiations may be a reflection of the new Democratic administration's thinking on our region.

At any rate, the bilateral negotiations sponsored by former President George Bush, which have continued for seven rounds, do not differ much from the Camp David formula. In fact they are exactly the same but on a larger scale. The negotiations are direct and are bilateral, and they are not held under an international umbrella or with the real participation of Russia or any of the Western members of the UN Security Council. Furthermore, the Camp David agreement spoke of a limited Palestinian autonomy for a period of five years. In the current bilateral negotiations, Israel is offering the same kind of autonomy.

To half the Arabs, President Bush was no friend. Many people in the region worry about Clinton. Let us make Bush's downfall and the fear of Clinton's partiality the ground from which we should all proceed to put the Arab house in order and draw up a common Arab strategy to face the U.S. changes.

No Saudi Objection 'in Principle' to Better Ties

PM0911101792 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 6 Nov 92 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Palestinian Ambassador in Riyadh: I Did Not Ask and Saudi Arabia Did Not Refuse to Invite 'Arafat to Visit Riyadh"]

[Text] London, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI—Subhi Abu-Karsh (Abu-al-Mundhir), Palestinian ambassador in Riyadh, has denied having asked the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to invite Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat to Riyadh. He said that the REUTER report claiming that Saudi Arabia had rejected such a request was inaccurate.

In an exclusive statement to AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI, Abu-Karsh said that it was his duty as Palestinian ambassador in Riyadh to seek better relations between the Saudi Kingdom and the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people—which is also the desire of the Palestinian leadership. He added that that was why he had asked Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah, when he met with him two days previously, if a PLO delegation could go to Riyadh to discuss the improvement of relations between the two sides, and that Prince 'Abdallah had replied: "We are brothers and there is no objection in principle, but time is needed for such a step."

Abu-al-Mundhir had met with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and submitted a similar request to him. He said also that he would be meeting in the next two weeks with Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and minister of defense and aviation, and with Prince Salman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, governor of Riyadh, to brief them on the political moves related to the peace process and the efforts to improve the atmosphere and rebuild bridges.

Abu-al-Mundhir said that the Saudi officials he met with were attentive and that Prince 'Abdallah had praised the Palestinian struggle and praised the Palestinian community in the kingdom and its good conduct, saying that he was proud of that community and its conduct. He had

said: "We are responsible for the Palestinian cause as a matter of principle. Arabs and Muslims, with ourselves foremost among them, will support the Palestinian people's honorable struggle."

Qaddumi Meets Rival PLO Officials in Damascus

JN1011070492 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, continued his talks with Syrian and Palestinian officials in Damascus. The talks focused on the Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Qaddumi yesterday emphasized that the Palestinians reject the formula of administrative autonomy in the occupied territories as proposed by Israel and demand a legislative Palestinian authority and international supervision.

Qaddumi, who is still in Damascus, held a series of meetings with ranking Syrian officials focusing on the need to warm up Syrian-Palestinian relations. The two sides also discussed the Jordanian-Israeli agreement and the need to ask for clarifications about it.

Qaddumi also held several meetings with the Damascus-based Palestinian factions opposing the peace process. He met with officials in the Palestine Liberation Front and assessed with them the outcome of peace talks one year after the Madrid conference. He also met with Talal Naji, a ranking official of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC]. He was due to meet in the evening with PFLP-GC leader Ahmad Jibril for the first time in many years.

Algeria

Ali Khafi Congratulates Clinton on Presidency

LD0911192092 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Text] Note this congratulatory message from the chairman of the Higher State Council Ali Kafi to the new U.S. President Bill Clinton. Ali Kafi takes the opportunity of this election to express a great wish and hope for the strengthening of relations of cooperation and friendship existing between the two countries and the two peoples.

Human Rights Group Denies Holding Torture Reports

LD0911102292 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Text] Abderezzak Barra, chairman of the National Human Rights Monitoring Group, confirmed today that the group has not received any correspondence relating to cases of torture or any human rights problems as of this date.

It should be recalled that Yahia Abdenmour, chairman of the Algerian League for the Defense of Human Rights, told APS on 4 November that he had signed documents relating to cases of torture, copies of which were available from the National Human Rights Monitoring Group.

Directives Issued To Implement Austerity Measures

LD0711102892 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Text] The austerity measures decided upon by Belaid Abdesselam's government have entered the stage of gradual implementation. The Ministry of Economy yesterday issued executive measures pertaining to the austerity directives issued by the head of government in late August.

The directives rigorously limit imports while highlighting two important advantages. The first pertains to the devotion of the majority of financial resources to priority development branches while the second—and this is a logical conclusion—pertains to safeguarding certain aspects of the national economy which are threatened with collapse.

Here is Fethi Saidi with details:

The austerity measures being adopted in the field of foreign trade classify commodities into three categories:

1. widely consumed strategic materials;
2. commodities which could be imported but cannot benefit from the process of immediate payment of hard currency or credits;
3. commodities which are totally banned from being imported.

The first category of strategic commodities of wide consumption covers grains and their by-products, some types of dry legumes, agricultural produce, [madkhulat filahiyah], building and pharmaceutical materials, urgently needed commodities for family consumption or the economic structure, and commodities used in fuel production.

These materials will be given priority precedence in benefiting from the system of immediate payment in hard currency and of bilateral or multilateral lines of credit. In other words, financial system benefits will be devoted to strategic production activities, the maintenance of the tools of production, and the accumulation of stored commodities to realize the objectives of production and investment.

The category of commodities which do not benefit from the system of immediate payment or lines of credit cannot be imported unless their importation is financed by personal funds. This includes: television sets, watches, electric motors, and some types of metal and public works tools.

The third category consists of materials which are totally banned from being imported and which cannot be financed by external resources either through state institutions or through personal funds. These commodities are also banned from exchange within the framework of nonfinancial transactions.

This category of banned imports includes: meat, fruits, foodstuffs made of cocoa, cosmetics, detergents, colored paper, games and toys, and household ware such as cooking utensils.

The above measures fall within the framework of the implementation of the austerity policy of Abdesselam Belaid's government, pending the emergence of the country from the most difficult state of external indebtedness, the settlement of which demands 70-75 percent of export revenues over a period of at least three years.

Party Opposes Treasury Call To Return Premises

LD1011120892 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] In the context of recovering real estate property, the ministry delegate to the Treasury urged the Party of Algerian Renewal to return the site which it occupies in the capital Algiers, and which has been allocated to the Education Ministry. Reacting to this decision, the Party of Algerian Renewal considered this measure incompatible with what it was accustomed to in the past, adding that it will abide only by a legal ruling issued by the court.

Egypt

Musa Previews Clinton Presidency, Peace Process
PM0911165192 Paris LE FIGARO in French 7-8 Nov 92 p 3

[Interview with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by Charles Lambroschini; date and place not given: "Bill Clinton Will Continue the Peace Process." On the Near East the Egyptian Foreign Minister Believes There Will Be Continuity in American Policy"]

[Text] [Lambroschini] Is there not a risk that the election of Democrat Bill Clinton will slow down the Near East peace process launched by Republican George Bush?

[Musa] I do not think that Bill Clinton's victory can have a negative influence on the talks. There will be continuity in American policy. Was not the starting point for the peace process the Camp David accords, which were concluded in 1978 with President Carter's assistance? He was a Democrat.

[Lambroschini] But the Jewish community in the United States also has to be reckoned with. And the majority of this community voted for Bill Clinton.

[Musa] The peace process has now found a rhythm of its own. Last week the seventh session held in Paris to chart multilateral economic cooperation in the Near East made it possible to exchange ideas and proposals. This new impetus must make it possible to overcome the occasional (possible) hesitancy. In any case, the Jewish community in the United States understands the importance of these negotiations. And it supports their basic principle: peace for land.

[Lambroschini] The "rejection front," which unites a number of Palestinian organizations based in Damascus, denounces the negotiations because they have not produced results.

[Musa] There will always be an opposition. There will always be differences of view. But the overwhelming majority of the Palestinian people support the peace process. This opposition cannot stop a movement supported by the leaders of the PLO, the majority of the population of the territories occupied by Israel, and Arab opinion as a whole.

[Lambroschini] The Palestinians in the territories seem to be divided, however. Businessmen are in favor of autonomy, but intellectuals are against. For his part, the man in the street is undecided.

[Musa] The Palestinian people will rally to the peace process when they see concrete results or at least an indication of progress. This is why we urge the Israeli Government to take measures which will create confidence.

[Lambroschini] Recently you were in Israel, where you said that the Israelis, while seeking an accord with Syria, should not forget above all the Palestinian problem. Were you understood?

[Musa] The Israelis must take into consideration that they cannot think solely about an agreement with Damascus. Or an arrangement with Lebanon and with Jordan. Nothing lasting will be feasible if a solution to the Palestinian problem is not found. It is a question of achieving universal peace. Peace between Israel and Syria or between Israel and Jordan cannot be enough. In order to put a final end to the conflict between the Arabs and the Israelis it is essential to settle the Palestinian question.

[Lambroschini] Israel's positions sometimes seem ambiguous. For the first time the Rabin government has used the word "withdrawal" in the context of the Golan seized from Syria in 1967. At the same time, as was visible during the Paris meeting, it is continuing to make difficulties over the composition of the Palestinian delegation because it does not want PLO representatives participating in the talks.

[Musa] Step by step we will emerge from these ambiguities. In terms of Syria, the Israelis hesitated for a long time before talking about withdrawal. But eventually they ventured to do so. Something similar could be said about the composition of the Palestinian delegation. Initially the Israelis were absolutely opposed to any link between the Palestinian delegation and the PLO. As the months passed their position evolved. A spectacular breakthrough should not be expected. It is necessary to be patient and advance a step or two at a time. Maybe even half a step...

[Lambroschini] There are also Syrian ambiguities. The Damascus government is participating in the talks but shelters Palestinian organizations belonging to the "rejection front."

[Musa] There are still many obstacles on the negotiating table, under the negotiating table, and even outside the conference hall. Some ambiguities are constructive. The essential thing is that movement should be in the right direction.

[Lambroschini] To sum up, then, ambiguity is constructive when we are talking about Syria but destructive when it comes to Israel.

[Musa] Why should you be surprised when I talk about constructive ambiguity on the Syrian side: This is all part of negotiations. I can also see constructive ambiguities on the part of the Israelis. They remain cautious on withdrawal from the territories, but they are moving forward.

[Lambroschini] The Paris session gave the impression of a dialogue of the deaf. The Arab participants judged it futile to talk about economic cooperation so long as there is no political settlement.

[Musa] In the absence of a political settlement it is impossible to launch economic cooperation on a Near East scale. There has to be a link between these matters. The prime necessity is that Israel withdraw from the occupied territories. Then there will be security agreements, followed by the establishment of relations of peace. Only after all that will it be possible to achieve economic cooperation.

[Lambroschini] But why is there already talk of multi-lateral economic cooperation?

[Musa] We believe that the bilateral talks will succeed. So why not prepare for the next stage.

[Lambroschini] Was your visit to France linked solely to the talks?

[Musa] It is obvious that for the peace process to advance there has to be cooperation between France and Egypt. But this is only one aspect of our relations. Egypt is a Mediterranean country. Anything that happens on the northern shore has an effect on the southern shore and vice versa. As in Yugoslavia, for example. When the Muslims of Bosnia are the victims of the Serbs' policy of ethnic cleansing, the conflict has to have an impact on public opinion in the Middle East. We must work together to stop the Serbs. Today, when security is at stake there cannot be solely regional situations. Security is global.

Mubarak Comments on U.S. Election, Iran Ties

NC0911210392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1551 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Excerpts] Cairo, 9 Nov (MENA)—The National Democratic Party [NDP] parliamentary group held a meeting today chaired by President Husni Mubarak. The meeting, which was held at the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics in eastern Cairo, was attended by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, Consultative Council Speaker Dr. Mustafa Kamal Hilmi, deputy prime ministers, ministers, the NDP secretary general and assistant secretaries, and NDP parliamentarians.

During the meeting, President Mubarak conducted a comprehensive and frank dialogue on various domestic and foreign issues, their impact on public action, and the government's efforts to resolve the people's problems, particularly those related to eliminating earthquake damage.

During the meeting, the nomination of Dr. Ahmad Fathi Surur as speaker of the People's Assembly in the coming parliamentary session was endorsed. The nominations of Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahim Hammadi as deputy speaker representing professionals and Sayyid Rashid as deputy speaker representing workers and farmers were also approved. [passage omitted]

Regarding local council elections, President Mubarak noted that the first round of these elections shows that the practice of democracy is expanding. He said all

parties are welcome to contest not only local elections, but all elections, in order to enrich the practice of democracy. He noted that the NDP always must demonstrate its ability to be present among and gain the confidence of the public. President Mubarak stressed that the people are perceptive and stand beside all parties that are committed to the homeland's causes and live up to the level of national responsibility. Furthermore, he added, the people also ignore advocates of wrongful claims and false slogans, regardless of how hard they try and how much money they offer. President Mubarak added that the earthquake has imposed additional burdens on us, forcing us to reconsider priorities. He added that there are several large schools that need to be rebuilt, and each school will cost approximately 1 million Egyptian pounds to construct, furnish, and supply the necessary educational equipment.

President Mubarak noted that deviating from the [five-year socioeconomic] plan means increasing the budget deficit, and therefore, we must follow the plan in order to achieve economic reform.

Regarding democratic practices and the failure by some to observe the ethics and rules of these practices, President Mubarak noted that we must adhere to the ethics and values of true democratic practices. The president called for updating voter registration lists to broaden the process of democracy for the majority of Egyptians. He noted that the votes of the vast majority of moderates must have an impact at the ballot box. [passage omitted]

President Mubarak then dealt with the progress made in economic reform and the government's policy to rectify the national economic course. He also touched on the accords reached with the financial and international institutions. President Mubarak stressed that the government will abide by the reform policy and will accept the consequences in order to achieve more steps and work out an agreement to ensure that part of the debts is written off.

During the meeting, President Mubarak touched on the U.S. elections and the new U.S. administration. He said that the United States is the greatest country in the world and it is a country of institutions. He noted that Egypt has strong relations with the United States based on mutual respect and understanding, which serve issues of peace and bolster the peace process. Egypt also cooperates with the United States in various economic, technical, social, and development spheres, Mubarak added.

The president added: Our relations with President Carter's administration were strong, and our cooperation was great and effective. The peace agreements were signed during the era of this administration. Also, we had distinguished relations with the U.S. Administration during President Bush's era. We will get acquainted and cooperate with new President Bill Clinton. This is because our issues, interests, and policies are clear, firm, and emanate from values, principles, and an honest vision of all international circumstances and changes.

Concerning relations with Iran, President Mubarak pointed out that Egypt has refused to restore diplomatic relations with Iran, noting that Egypt has relations with countries which respect stability, do not interfere in Egypt's domestic affairs, do not export terrorism, and do not encourage extremist ideas. He said that Egypt has its own role in the area and it will not relinquish its role in safeguarding Arab and national security and the security of the Gulf.

Alluding to the attempts to strike at the national economy by attacking tourists, the president pointed out that although these attempts are carried out by individuals, they are aimed at harming the national economy. He said these individuals want to strike at the people because tourism revenues are estimated at \$3 billion.

President Mubarak said Egypt's relations with the European countries are strong, adding that Europe fully appreciates Egypt's stands and supports us concerning all economic and political issues.

The president pointed out that Egypt's relations with Arab countries are distinguished. He said: Our relations with Saudi Arabia have never been better. He noted that Egypt has strong and special relations with Kuwait, Oman, the United Arab Emirates [UAE], Qatar, Bahrain, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco.

On the issue of Hala'ib and when exploitation of this issue will end, President Mubarak explained the Hala'ib problem and how some circles have tried periodically to force rulers to exploit the Hala'ib issue for political purposes in order to cover up domestic situations, including circles prompted to do so from outside Sudan in an attempt to damage relations between the two peoples and countries.

President Mubarak said: The Sudanese people reject these maneuvers, and millions of fraternal Sudanese people are living with us in Egypt as honored brothers. These circles are raising issues to which they have no right in a region where only a few thousand Egyptians and Sudanese are living. He added: We are working to end this problem once and for all. Egypt's right is clear and the facts impose themselves. We must respect the facts in the interests of the two peoples and in order to end the exploitation of this issue.

The president then touched on the issue of terrorism and the actions carried out by some people that threaten Egypt's security. He stressed that the entire Egyptian people and government will not tolerate any kind of terrorist elements, will confront their attempts very decisively, and that there will be no laxity toward any action that damages the homeland's or citizens' security or any attempt to impose a view by force.

President Mubarak went on to say: Egypt is one nation and belongs to all its sons. We have not differentiated between a Muslim and a Christian throughout history, and we will not do so in the future. We will not allow anyone to harm our national unity and we will not allow

terrorism or those operating under the guise of religion to harm national unity in Egypt, because the country's security is above anything else. There can be no development, stability, or secure lives for the sons of this society without security.

President Mubarak asserted that Egypt's stability means stability for the entire Arab nation and the whole region, and that Egypt will remain strong through its people, national unity, intellectuals, and its strong Armed Forces, which are capable of upholding political decisions. He praised in this respect the Armed Forces' role in the liberation of Kuwait and recalled how they executed the most difficult missions, which earned them the admiration of the entire world.

Regarding strengthening the security organs, the president stressed that all branches of the security organs are exerting great efforts to defend security and safety and are honorably and loyally confronting all attempts to deviate from legitimacy or damage stability. He said the government is providing the security organs' needs and that the entire world testifies to the high efficiency of the Egyptian security apparatus. He added: We will not hesitate to provide them with all the resources that strengthen their role and responsibilities.

In a reply to a question about reports that building activities have been halted and what effect this has on workers, the president explained that this will only be the case until rebuilding activity in all governorates is reorganized. He added that there are jobs available in the rebuilding of more than 1,000 schools and the rebuilding and repairing of thousands of houses damaged by the earthquake.

Paper Claims Baker To Begin Mideast Tour Soon

NC0911161592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1315 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 9 Nov (MENA)—Cairo newspaper AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I, citing informed diplomatic sources, today reports that White House Chief of Staff James Baker in the next two weeks will make his last tour of the Middle East, which will take him to Israel, Syria, Jordan, and Egypt. According to the same sources, Baker's tour, which will be the last under President George Bush's administration, primarily will focus on giving impetus to the peace process with a view to attaining more effective and final results during the current round of negotiations, particularly on the Syrian-Israeli and Palestinian-Israeli tracks. This is especially true since this issue is among the current U.S. Administration's priorities and will remain so during the coming two months before power is transferred to the Clinton administration, which will take over on 20 January 1993.

AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I quotes these informed diplomatic sources as saying that Baker will not be carrying any new proposals during his anticipated tour of the region. He instead will try to bring closer the views of the

various parties proceeding from the latest progress during the current round of talks in Washington. The paper adds that to do this, Baker will rely on the momentum which the U.S. Administration has been providing since the beginning of the talks and on the recent progress made on the Israeli-Jordanian track. He will emphasize the need for all parties to reach positive results before the end of the year so that the administration of President-Elect Bill Clinton will not have to reexamine the peace issue among all the parties all over again, which would take a long time and could postpone any new agreement for as long as 18 months.

It is worth noting that during the past months, when Baker was still secretary of state, he made more than eight shuttle missions in the region from the time Bush's peace initiative was announced in March 1991. The initiative adopted the principle of land for peace as a basis for settling the conflict in the Middle East.

Turkey Urged to Withdraw From Kurdish Iraq

NC0811095892 *Cairo MENA in Arabic 0628 GMT 8 Nov 92*

[Text] Cairo, 8 Nov (MENA)—In a commentary today, AL-AHRAM discusses the dimensions of the Turkish military operation in northern Iraq against the forces of the opposition Workers Party of Kurdistan, which demands secession from Turkey and the establishment of an independent Kurdish state.

The paper welcomes Turkey's assertion that it will withdraw from northern Iraq as an important step. What is more important, however, is that Turkey should abide by this commitment and under all circumstances leave Iraqi territory without a trace, AL-AHRAM says.

Leaving any Turkish soldiers on Iraqi territory, the paper contends, would be a flagrant violation of Iraq's sovereignty, setting a serious precedent in the two countries' relations and planting seeds of regional tension among Iran, Turkey, and Iraq's Kurds.

Concluding, AL-AHRAM says antiterrorism claims may theoretically, but still reluctantly, justify temporary and passing interventions. However, going far in such justifications and taking advantage of the difficult situation experienced by the Iraqi people to achieve regional objectives is a negative attitude that must immediately and irrevocably be abandoned.

Mauritian Minister Comments on Talks With Musa

NC0911130592 *Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Nov 92*

[Text] A session of official talks between Egypt and Mauritius opened at the Foreign Ministry this morning. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa led the Egyptian delegation. Mauritian Foreign Minister Paul Berenger, who is currently in Cairo, led his nation's delegation.

The two sides discussed current African issues, coordination of bilateral stands in the upcoming African meetings, and ways to promote bilateral relations in various fields.

After the session, the Mauritian foreign minister said discussions focused on bilateral relations and emphasized his country's wish to promote these relations in all fields.

He added that he and Musa also discussed international issues of mutual interest, primarily disarmament and the outcome of the recent human rights conference in Tunis due to both countries' interest in the situation there.

He said that his visit to Egypt will develop and strengthen bilateral relations, and he praised Egypt's pioneering role in the region and Africa. He said his country needs many experts and ulema from al-Azhar [Islamic religious university] to enhance Islamic preaching and culture in Mauritius.

2 Arrested in Attack on Security Forces in Dayrut

NC0911215492 *Cairo MENA in Arabic 2054 GMT 9 Nov 92*

[Text] Asyut, 9 Nov (MENA)—Security forces in Asyut Governorate today arrested two secondary school students who attempted to throw an explosive device at the Dayrut Sports Club, where some of the Central Security Forces are deployed.

Some shrapnel from the explosion injured farmer 'Abd-al-Majid Muhammad Ibrahim, 60, and Sha'ban 'Adas Muhammad, his 25-year-old assistant, who happened to be passing on the road when the incident took place. They were taken to Dayrut Hospital, treated for superficial wounds, and released.

Major General 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Hilali, assistant interior minister and director of Asyut security, said that the security presence in Dayrut aims to prevent such crimes and thwart the extremist elements' attempts to undermine security in the area.

Curfew Imposed Following Fighting

NC1011101392 *Paris AFP in English 0836 GMT 10 Nov 92*

[Text] Asyut, Egypt, Nov 10 (AFP)—Police and Muslim fundamentalists battled with automatic weapons late Monday in this southern Egyptian city after a bomb blast at a police compound and an attack by Muslim militants on Christian-owned businesses.

Authorities slapped a curfew on parts of Asyut, 400 kilometers (240 miles) south of Cairo, following the worst disturbances in the region for 11 years.

Correspondents said one fundamentalist was wounded by police in clashes with activists from the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah group [Islamic Group] that erupted a few

hours after an assailant hurled a bomb at a police compound in nearby Dayrut, injuring a policeman and a civilian.

In an effort to avert fresh trouble following the bombing, police encircled Al-Rahmah Mosque in Asyut on Monday afternoon as al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah members held their weekly meeting. When fundamentalists tried to leave at the end of the session, police moved in and attempted to arrest several of them, triggering clashes and an outburst of gunfire on both sides.

At the same time, according to police, three fundamentalist groups launched attacks against a pharmacy owned by a Coptic Christian, stabbing and wounding the manager, and hurled bombs at a videotheque and a clothing store, causing damages.

Police arrested four of the fundamentalists involved in the attacks and seriously wounded one of them, police sources reported.

The fighting triggered panic among the city's 273,000 inhabitants, who cowered indoors while shops hastily pulled down their shutters. Calm returned to Asyut late Monday but police slapped curfews on five neighborhoods while armored vehicles blocked many of the streets.

Musa Discusses Fundamentalists, Peace Process

PM1011102092 Paris LE MONDE in French 8-9 Nov 92 p 5

[Interview with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by Mouna Naim in Paris; date not given]

[Text] A leader of the clandestine fundamentalist organization Islamic Society speaking in the mosque in Asyut, Upper Egypt on Friday 6 November, proclaimed that the Islamic state would come to Egypt one day "by holy war." Islamic Society is held responsible for several attacks on security forces and the authorities also accuse it of an attack on a vehicle carrying tourists last October in which a British national was killed.

Despite this resumption of activity by Islamic extremists, the Egyptian authorities are trying to be reassuring. Egypt welcomes "more than 2 million tourists" each year and a few "isolated incidents" cannot mean that the tourist industry is threatened, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, who has just made a 48-hour visit to France, told us. Tourism brings Egypt around \$3 billion a year.

"But this does not mean," he hastened to add, "that we should play down such incidents, the causes of which must be eliminated... with a firm attitude." Because, according to him, although in a democracy "it is impossible to repress a current of thought or opinion, it is nonetheless true that the dividing line separating us from violence and terrorism" must not be crossed. Mr. Musa also said that the attacks aimed at (Christian) Copts are limited to the Upper Egypt region, which has always

been affected by fundamentalist agitation; he says he is convinced that "Egypt will always remain faithful to the interaction and complementarity" of all components of its population.

The Egyptian foreign minister is also not worried, or at least says he is not worried, by the possible destabilizing influence of the Sudanese Islamic regime, which is accused by many Arab countries of harboring extremists of all nationalities. "There is a degree of tension in relations between Egypt and Sudan, but this has no repercussions in Egypt itself," he said, although he deplored some foreign influences in the Arab world. Was he referring to Iran? "I have not named anyone," he said. However, he explained that Egypt will continue to criticize "any erroneous policy pursued by Iran," be it the occupation of Abu-Musa island—claimed by the United Arab Emirates—or something else, and he added: "We regard Iran as a fraternal country which ought to review its policy in the Gulf in the interests of all concerned."

Mr. Musa, who was received by President Francois Mitterrand, argued in his talks with the French leaders for the formation of a Mediterranean "forum." This is particularly necessary, he said, because the Yugoslav affair affects all the Mediterranean countries, not just Europe. According to him, Paris listened carefully to the idea of a forum which, without being modeled on the CSCE, would be inspired by it, adapting it to the region's needs. To the longstanding arguments invoked by France to explain the futility of such a plan while the Israeli-Arab conflict and the quarrel between Greece and Turkey continue, the Egyptian foreign minister replied that both these problems are moving toward settlement by negotiation, even if that process is long, and that such a forum would also help smooth over the problems.

Mr. Musa has no anxieties about a slowing down of the Near East peace process following the advent of a Democratic president in the United States. "It is vital," he stressed, "that the parties involved in the peace negotiations reach the point of no return before the end of the year," in other words draw up an agenda for their work and "get down to the heart of the matter." Therefore, he said, "I think it is out of the question for any U.S. Government to backpedal when the various parties involved have agreed to enter into negotiations." And, although it is true that there are traditionally preferential ties between the U.S. Democrats and Israel, "these relations should be exploited to promote peace," Mr. Musa said, with the assurance of a country which has already reached a peace treaty with Israel under the auspices of Jimmy Carter, a Democratic American president.

Secrecy on Issue of Quake Aid Questioned

NC0611120092 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 2 Nov 92 p 5

[Article by Dr. Muhammad Hilmi Murad: "The President Imposes Secrecy on Funds Donated by the People,

Whereas He Is Obligated To Disclose His Personal Wealth, and Has Absolutely No Freedom To Do What He Likes With It]

[Excerpts] AL-AHRAM, which is described abroad as a semi-official newspaper, came out with an article by its chief editor last Friday entitled "What Are They Asking About?" The article criticizes people who ask about the aid and donations for the earthquake victims and how these funds are being spent, describing them as having lost their basic decency (!). This is because logic always demands—as the writer says, reflecting the view of the ruling regime—that "whoever is asked to undertake a task must not be asked about its costs until it is over." In other words, the people should not know how much money the state has received in foreign and local donations and there should be no planned policy to spend it or basis for work, as the matter demands that one should not be bogged down by minor details. We must wait for many years until the issue is forgotten and the role of the officials responsible for it ends or they die. It is enough that God knows the secret!!

AKHBAR AL-YAWM chief editor then held an interview with President Husni Mubarak which the paper published the next day. The president spoke in the same vein. He said: "We have heard some speak about the aid and donations and try to cast doubt about the way funds are spent. I expected these people to wait a little until we emerge from this tragedy and then ask for the accounts to be revealed."

He added: "The funds I receive in my name are deposited in the banks and the government knows about them. Therefore, I was surprised when someone (perhaps his excellency was referring to my article in AL-SHA'B on 20 October 1992) wrote saying he wanted the people to know the amount of these funds, their sources, and how they are spent, and I say to him that the people trust the regime and are confident that their money is in good hands."

But the issue is not a question of confidence and trust and is not an argument on decency; it is a question of systems and controls, accounts and rules, and examination and supervision. It is a question of avoiding suspicion and accounting for what a person does. This is something traditional in civilized countries and stipulated by constitutions, irrespective of the persons who rule and the extent of confidence people have in them. Otherwise, there is no reason for the existence of houses of representatives and parliaments to supervise the handling and expenditure of public funds, and there is no point in establishing financial control and accounting departments. It would have been sufficient to deposit the taxes and all state revenues in an account in the name of the state's president from which he can spend according to principles that he deems appropriate and that he supports.

This is what President Mubarak intends to do with respect to the earthquake donations. In the interview, he

said: As for the Central Bank account where the major financial donations contributed by countries are deposited, no money is spent without my approval (and the president believes this is an adequate guarantee). As for the small donations and contributions by the citizens, they will be deposited in al-Ahli Bank to be at the disposal of the prime minister, and not a dime from this is spent unless it is in the right place. The ministers and governors present their needs in daily cabinet meetings, and the minister of finance is following up on each amount received by the minister or the governor. [passage omitted]

Funds have been previously collected for national purposes and the people did not know what happened to them, how much was left from them, and how the surplus was spent. President Mubarak himself referred to some of these cases when he said: We have previously unused relief money that we keep in the banks and use only as necessary (the president did not indicate where these accounts are, which banks they are in, what they were for, how much money is left, and what the necessary things are for which withdrawals from them are allowed). He added: We have some money left over from the time of the Central Security Forces riots (he did not say how much) and other money from... (and here the president stopped). He then said: Let us not get into that, or some people will start asking us to hand out this money!

We would like to ask: Do any citizens, regardless of the position or place of responsibility they may hold, know anything about the donation accounts related to the Central Security Forces riots, how much they were, how they were spent, and what is left of them? And why have the remaining funds not been transferred to the public treasury? After all, the purpose for which they were received no longer exists, or are these funds waiting for more riots by the Central Security Forces?

The president made no mention of the donations deducted from government employees' salaries for settling Egypt's foreign debts, although I referred to these donations in my article.

So far, we do not know the total of these donations, the amount spent for their original purposes, and the remaining amount so that the citizens may be assured that their donations are used only for their intended purpose.

These debts were rescheduled more than once after grace periods for settlement and payment of interest passed and later creditor nations dropped part of the debts, which suggests that the remainder of the donations must be a considerable amount.

Can the people ask to be told the amount of these donations or is it a secret? The people are the owners of these funds. They also are the sole source of sovereignty

and authority according to the Constitution. The president, the ministers, and all state employees are just servants of the people working for fixed salaries and wages.

It would appear that this fact is not sufficiently clear in the president's mind. In his statement to AKHBAR AL-YAWM, he said he was eager not to use the state budget for earthquake-related spending so that international financial institutions would not stop granting us loans out of fear that we might not be able to repay. When asked about the source of spending, the president mentioned domestic and foreign assistance. He said, however, that the donations were not enough and that the shortfall will be covered from funds set aside for emergencies. When the interviewer asked again "Where did these emergency funds come from?" the president replied: It does not matter from where they come (the people are kept in the dark). What matters, added the president, is that the state and the government know the sources of these funds (it is not important for the people to know). They are deposited in the Central Bank as reserves for emergencies.

Later in the interview, President Mubarak explained that late President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir had received 10 million pounds sterling and deposited it in a special emergency account in one of the banks. He said late President al-Sadat saved the money, whose value has now grown to some 60 million pounds, and set it aside for future emergencies.

Do the People's Assembly and the Audit Bureau know about this deposit and its source? Did President al-Sadat not withdraw any of it, or did he not know anything about it? One day, al-Sadat announced that a few million pounds received from an Arab country had been deposited in one of the banks without his knowing that the money existed until it was discovered by Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz Hijazi.

Does the story of this new emergency deposit not raise suspicions about secret deposits and undeclared bank accounts? Is it not necessary for things to be accurate and under control?

If the people are really the owners of sovereignty and the source of power, should the president deliberately conceal financial facts from them, and still say it explicitly and determinedly as though he were a trustee of the people, not someone assigned to respect their will?

The president himself—in accordance with the law on illicit earnings—must reveal his and his family's private wealth; he must not conceal it from the nation. He must declare his movable and immovable property, as well as those of his wife and underage children within two months of his assumption of power. He also must present a declaration on property every five years throughout his service as president. And when he leaves office, he must make a declaration explaining—apart from the aforementioned—the source of any increase in wealth. A committee of five Supreme Court counselors

shall examine the declarations, and in the case of strong suspicions of illegal gains, the president shall be accused and tried.

The president, moreover, is not free to use or invest his private money. According to Article 82 of the Constitution, he is not allowed to invest his money on any commercial, financial, or industrial projects while in office. He also cannot use it to buy or hire any state property, to sell or rent any of his property to the state, or to barter any deal with the state.

Is it possible, then, for someone who is required to reveal his own wealth to the nation to hide the nation's wealth? Can he have a free hand to use people's money without control, when he is not free to use his own money in order to maintain the integrity of his supreme position and remain above suspicion?

Is it possible to say, after all, that these constitutional and legislative texts lack tact or run contrary to the confidence and trust the people are supposed to have in the president? [passage omitted]

'Extremist Groups' Set Up Media Center

NC0611115092 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 2 Nov 92 p 1

[Text] Extremists have seized a neighborhood in Imbabah [a Cairo suburb] and have turned it into a center for their media activity. Members of extremist groups have phoned foreign news agencies, newspapers, and television stations, inviting them to send their correspondents to the neighborhood, where they are then handed statements defending extremism.

The extremist groups began this activity after the earthquake and after the arrest of Mustafa al-Sayyid, the extremist groups' spokesman, in a big hotel several days ago.

Placards have been hung in the neighborhood carrying slogans such as "The wheel of jihad turned by al-Islambuli and his comrades [assassins of President Awnar al-Sadat] will not stop," and "In the distant past, it was al-Sadat, in the not distant past it was al-Mahjub [assassinated People's Assembly speaker], and tomorrow it is anyone who is hostile to Islam."

A few days ago, the extremist groups invited foreign media to an important news conference. The foreign journalists were surprised to see the extremists celebrating the anniversary of al-Sadat's assassination.

There were loudspeakers and the neighborhood was lit up. The groups' speaker addressed the audience, saying: "Yes, we are extremists, because they are wrong." "Yes, we are terrorists against the enemies of God—the Christians, Jews, and the State Security Investigation Department." "This earthquake is a sign of anger from God due to the nonapplication of Islamic shari'ah."

The extremists have hung a picture of the reviewing stand incident [assassination of President al-Sadat] and a huge picture of al-Sadat in his military uniform. In the picture, an arrow points at his leg with the inscription "a bullet in his feet, which visited Israel." Another arrow points at his hand with an inscription "a bullet in his hand, which shook hands with the Jews." They then played a videotape of the reviewing stand incident on three television sets installed in the neighborhood.

Supreme Court To Rule on Election Law

NC0811071292 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 4 Nov 92 pp 1, 2

[Report by Hamdi Hamadah]

[Excerpt] The Administrative Judicial Court has referred the lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of Article 75 of Local Councils Election Law No. 43 of 1979 to the Supreme Constitutional Court. The court based its order on the appeal made by Isam al-Islambuli and others, in which they called for the suspension of the local council elections that were held yesterday, Tuesday.

The Administrative Judicial Court ruled that it is not within its jurisdiction to rule on the petition for the suspension and annulment of Presidential Decree No. 337 of 1992 to hold the elections. The court referred the lawsuit to the Supreme Constitutional Court.

In their lawsuit, the petitioners pointed out that in its 19 May 1990 session, the Supreme Constitutional Court ruled unconstitutional the election system combining party lists and individual candidates, as stipulated under Article 75. The court emphasized that the party lists system violates the right of citizens not belonging to political parties to run in the elections on an equal footing and breaches the principle of equal opportunity for the remaining candidates. [passage omitted]

Reports of Low Voter Turnout, Violence Noted

NC0811192492 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 5 Nov 92 p 1

[Text] The world followed the farce of local elections in Egypt Tuesday, with foreign correspondents in the country stressing the low voter turnout. A REUTER report noted that the turnout in some polling stations in Cairo did not exceed 5 percent. According to the report, only 47 out of 967 eligible voters cast their votes at one of the polling stations. In the major cities, no more than 8 percent of those eligible cast votes, the report said. The report asserted that many ordinary Egyptians were not interested in the elections. It cites a taxi driver as saying: "I did not vote because I do not trust them. I know the result in advance; the National Democratic Party will win!"

Foreign correspondents also noted the lack of confidence in the integrity of the elections, which explains the low turnout. Some citizens described democracy in Egypt as

fake and nonexistent. News agencies also highlighted the violence that accompanied voting in many governorates and the decision to postpone the elections in six governorates.

Sidqi Discusses Reform, Investment, Inflation

NC0911122692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0623 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 9 Nov (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi has emphasized that President Husni Mubarak's eagerness to be frank with the people in every issue made them support the government and share its responsibility for economic reform.

In an interview with today's AL-AKHBAR, marking six years in office, he said the Egyptian economy has passed the period of intensive care to start a new phase. He said the balance of payments has for the first time achieved a surplus, which in 1991-92 amounted to approximately 5 billion [Egyptian] pounds against 1.4 billion in the previous year, and that the budget deficit fell to just 7 percent in the year 1991-92, noting that the deficit was financed by genuine savings.

On government efforts to liberalize foreign trade, Dr. Sidqi referred to the new import and export bill issued in 1991 ending discrimination between public and private sectors and the public sector's monopoly on exporting certain goods. He also noted numerous other measures taken to streamline export procedures, restructure customs tariff, and gradually reduce the number of goods banned from being imported. As for investment, Sidqi said the number of projects endorsed this year had reached 167, with estimated investments of around 4,549 million pounds.

He said that freeing credit and debit interest rates had restored confidence to the Egyptian pound, curbed loans for consumables, encouraged saving in Egyptian currency, and attracted the savings of Egyptian expatriates.

Commenting on efforts to deal with unemployment, Sidqi said the government was eager to take measures to solve this problem gradually. He said the third five-year plan includes investments totaling 154 billion pounds with a view to setting up projects to employ the young.

He noted that the income earned by workers in 1992 was double that of 1987 and that incentives and bonuses had increased by more than the basic wage.

On government efforts to curb inflation, the prime minister said inflation in the mid-1980's was around 25 percent, while the increase in wages did not exceed 20 percent. He said inflation in June 1992 fell to under 10 percent and that employees got around a 20 percent increase.

Concluding his interview, Dr. Sidqi emphasized that the Egyptian nation is the real champion of the reform process, which the government has begun and insists on pursuing.

Minister Details Oil, Natural Gas Discoveries*NC0811220892 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 1 Nov 92 p 6*

[Report by Mahmud Sadiq in Matruh]

[Excerpts] Dr. Hamdi al-Banbi, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, has affirmed that the petroleum installations in the country are sound and were not affected by the 12 October earthquake. These installations were designed to withstand an earthquake measuring up to 8 on the Richter scale. [passage omitted]

The minister explained that the agreements signed between Egypt and 17 foreign companies are all being implemented and that during the previous period, there were 19 oil finds, nine of which are commercial. The rest are scientific and are being evaluated.

On the production of the Badr-al-Din fields, he said that the total daily production of oil and by-products amounts to 32,000 barrels of high-quality oil, which is processed in the local refineries and not exported. Around 210 million cubic feet of natural gas also were discovered and will be used in the Governorates of Cairo and Alexandria. The gas reserve is estimated at 1.3 trillion cubic feet. After development it could reach 7 trillion cubic feet.

He announced that another group of oil fields was found in the regions of Abyad and Matruh. They currently are being evaluated to prepare for operating gas projects. He affirmed that the two discoveries are commercial and present extensive possibilities for further discoveries of natural gas. [passage omitted]

Morocco**Newspapers React to U.S. Election Outcome***LD0611185092 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0900 GMT 5 Nov 92*

[Text] [Passage indistinct] The popular newspaper AL-HAKA said "the United States will not change its policy of dominating the world and the big powers will not change their alliance with and support for the United States because they lack the might and economic capability of the United States." The paper asked in its editorial "will Palestine remain, as it is, in crisis...and will the Arabs wake up and achieve a close reconciliation among themselves, which brings together the Gulf, Iraq, and Jordan and reconciles our states with Syria, Egypt, Yemen, Sudan and the countries of the Arab Maghreb?"

The paper went on to say "the pinning of hope on any state—rather, on any person—is a primary defeat, and if we proceed in this manner and await the backing of any President, we will be chasing a mirage and seeking to treat our ills by a medicine that aggravates the illness."

ANNIDAL AD DEMOQRATI, for its part, said "despite the priority the Democratic president-elect will

give to domestic issues, the Arab-Israeli conflict should remain among the priorities of the American officials." It went on to say "it is unreasonable that things continue to proceed as they are, that the Middle East negotiations continue to progress at a turtle's pace." It recalled Israel's oppressive policy against the Palestinians and stressed that the new U.S. Administration must shoulder its historic responsibility by putting pressure on Israel to breathe new life into the peace talks, taking into consideration the legitimate rights of the Palestinians, especially since the Arab peoples can no longer put up with Israel's arrogance.

The French language AL-BAYANE commented on Clinton's victory by saying "the Americans have chosen a young president and this is a positive symbol in a world that is rapidly changing." The paper went on to say that domestic issues have triumphed over victories abroad in the American elections. It stressed that what preoccupies the Americans today are inflation, social security, minorities, poverty, and the budget deficit, and this is what the Americans have expressed democratically in accordance with the tradition of their country. The paper went on to say that foreign issues impose themselves on U.S. policy and asked what the fate of the negotiations on peace in the Middle East in the wake of Clinton's victory will be.

AL-BAYANE concluded that the attitude of the United States is important in this context and expressed the hope that Washington would continue to bring balance to the attitudes of the sides with the aim of achieving a speedy and just solution in the region.

Concerning American-Moroccan relations, the paper recalled the ancient relations between the two countries and said that this is an incentive for raising the level of cooperation within the context of mutual respect and on the basis of the activation of exchanges, for the sake of Moroccan economic development.

The French language LIBERATION, for its part, said that the American elections have revealed "the total failure of the exaggerated liberal policy pursued by Reagan and Bush.. which led to widespread unemployment and poverty in the United States and other parts of the world." It pointed out that the results of the American elections will have an effect on international relations, especially in the area of human rights in the world.

The paper stressed the growing importance of Palestinian rights and feared that Bill Clinton's policy would become a hostage of the desires of Zionist pressure groups. It concluded that the international community, including the Arabs, require more than just U.S. attitudes for the achievement of a truly just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the Middle East, a matter that requires that President Clinton listen to Arab expectations.

Russia Pledges To Complete Work on Al Wahda Dam

LD0411201992 Rabat MAP in English 1301 GMT 4
Nov 92

[Text] Moscow, Nov. 4 (MAP)—A Moroccan delegation is currently holding talks here with Russian officials on Russia's participation in the building works of "Al Wahda" dam.

The Moroccan delegation was received at the Russian Department of External Economic Relations which renewed Russia's pledge to take over the former USSR contracts.

Moscow will contribute turbines and electro-mechanic devices. It will also participate in the building of a hydro-electric plant. the building of the dam will be completed by end 1997.

Austria's Mock Visits, Signs Investment Agreement

AU0411102392 Vienna WIENER ZEITUNG in
German 4 Nov 92 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Mock Visits King Hassan II"]

[Text] Rabat—Yesterday [3 November], Foreign Minister Alois Mock was received by King Hassan II of Morocco. According to Mock's spokesman, the talks focused on international efforts for settling the Middle East conflict. Mock pointed to Austria's efforts in this regard. The Moroccan king briefed the foreign minister on the talks he held during his recent trip to various Middle Eastern countries.

On Sunday, Mock arrived for three days of meetings in Morocco. On Monday, the foreign minister signed the Austria-Moroccan investment protection agreement. In a meeting with Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali, Mock emphasized Austria's support for the principles of the Geneva Yugoslavia Conference, namely not to change borders, to protect the minorities, and to maintain economic and political sanctions against Belgrade.

Heinz Paumgarten, the responsible official of the Federal Economic Chamber's North Africa department, expects an intensification of Austrian foreign trade with Morocco in the wake of the foreign minister's visit.

Government Council Considers Draft Bill Amendments

LD0511211792 Rabat MAP in English 1338 GMT 5
Nov 92

[Text] Rabat, Nov 5 (MAP)—A government council chaired by Premier Karim Lambrani looked Wednesday into several draft amendments to existing bills and heard exposes by cabinet members.

Minister in charge of the Moroccan community abroad, Rafik Hadaoui, reported on his visit to Spain saying 48,000 nationals have had their stay in Spain normalized. Another 16,000 cases were processed before his visit.

With Spanish officials, Hadaoui agreed on further meetings to define a joint strategy for Moroccan [word indistinct] labor. A joint commission will [words indistinct] to the improvement of transit facilities and services for Moroccans living in Europe. Spanish authorities, he said, hailed the efficiency of measures adopted by Morocco to stop clandestine immigration.

The council examined a series of documents including citizenship applications, the Development and Cooperation Office, and the UN convention on children's rights.

Interior and Information Minister Driss Basri reported on activity by the national commission supervising electoral operations saying things were proceeding normally in a climate of objectivity and responsibility. 2,246 recourse actions on inter-candidate disputes have been recorded while recourse against would-be administration offenses only reached 5, he said.

The minister also submitted a series of draft bills amending legislation on communal organization, trade chambers, revision of voting lists, the organization of communal council elections, and the new administrative and communal warding. Delimitation of constituencies for chambers of agriculture, handicraft, trade and industry was also debated for amendment.

A draft decree providing deadlines for political parties to account for expenditures and the use of public subsidies to fund the electoral campaign was also handed in.

Sudan

Minister on Ties to Egypt, Clinton Victory

JN0911094492 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 9 Nov 92 p
30

[Interview with Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din, Sudanese minister of state for presidential affairs, by Sa'd al-Silawi in Amman—date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [al-Silawi] Is there any positive development with regard to the border dispute with Egypt?

[Al-Din] Yes, there has been a positive development. A major rapprochement has taken place following the earthquakes that hit Egypt. Sudan was among the leading states that offered Egypt assistance and condolences. An Egyptian-Sudanese border committee met late last month and issued a statement bearing a very positive spirit. This is a success for Sudanese diplomacy because, in the first place, we wanted to tackle this issue through

such an approach, rather than incitement and presentation of the issue as one which could lead to a war between Egypt and Sudan. [passage omitted]

[Al-Silwai] Do you believe that the change of the U.S. Administration and the victory of the Democrats will lead to an opening up in Sudanese-U.S. relations?

[Al-Din] As Muslims, we believe in dialogue. Islam, in essence, is a call for dialogue, and we do not consider the U.S. society excluded from such a call. We have not adopted any hostile tendencies toward the United States. We told them that Islam calls for what is constructive, and does not advocate violence, as has been propagated. [Sudanese Islamic leader] Al-Turabi visited the United States several times, and I personally have visited it. Therefore, we in Sudan welcome the victory of President Clinton. We consider his victory a new page in the dialogue between the West and Islam, especially since the Democratic Party is essentially based on the affiliation of minorities. This dialogue has wide prospects. We are ready to contribute to this dialogue, so as to confront the anti-Arab and anti-Islam Zionist media.

[Al-Silwai] How important are the oil discoveries in Sudan? Are they commercially viable?

[Al-Din] Yes, they are. Sudan is now the sixth state on the world level in terms of oil reserves. There are discoveries, but we have a transportation problem. However, this problem will soon be resolved.

A Sudanese company has purchased the franchise of the U.S. Chevron company. This measure has restored the oil concession to national sovereignty. The company will start work throughout Sudan within two years. There are offers by other companies. We will compare and decide. It is believed that within three years, we will achieve a qualitative stride in the field of oil.

[Al-Silwai] You have referred to a Western threat. How serious is it?

[Al-Din] The Western threat is real. To begin with, there was a media siege. Now there is a political siege. Besides, resolutions are now being drafted providing for imposing a blockade and denouncing Sudan, in addition to economic sanctions. Practically, we are not being besieged now in accordance with a UN Security Council resolution, but we are being besieged by many Western states. Recently, when we wanted to export Sudanese corn to Europe, a resolution was tailored especially for Sudan on the same day, in which it was decided to ban the importation of Sudanese corn. They also ignored the fourth Lome agreement between the EC and the African group. They also violated international law and lifted the subsidy on corn that has been decided under the article for encouraging poor countries' imports. Thus, Sudan will henceforth receive no aid from the EC.

Issues Clinton To Face in Middle East Outlined

EA0811060192 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service
Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The sons of the Middle East and the Islamic east in general are waiting to see what Clinton will do because the mentality of the intelligence agent, which guided President Bush, whose era has ended, has not left in the mind of any individual in our Arab and Islamic east the least degree of confidence in American intentions towards the region and towards every factor of strength or pivot of unification for it.

It was clear, ever since the Republican Party came to power in the White House in 1988 [as heard], after an absence of four years during which the Democrats ruled through Carter, that the Republican Party embraced a hardline stance which maintained that the former Soviet Union would not stop its rivalry unless it was convinced of the impossibility of continuing the arms race, and that the whole world ought to understand that America is the greatest power in history. Because the average American sanctifies power and wealth in a country in which an individual acquires political and social status through what he owns, the Republicans, led by Reagan and his deputy [title as heard], Bush, played this tune well, particularly after the detention of the American hostages in Tehran and Carter's failure to secure their release.

Reagan and his successor, Bush, were among the willing tools of the security agencies that know no means of ensuring security and calm other than force and force alone. The climate was set then for those who pursue the ethos of force to reach the seat of power. They pursued it to the end. Bush no longer knew any means for solving a dispute other than blockades, the massing of armies, the abduction of presidents and their trials, and exploiting his (?monopolization) of the world after the collapse of the Soviet Union and the states of the socialist system.

The heading of the first file that Clinton will find on his Oval Office table will be the Middle East and the Islamic east, in view of the fact that they are one entity. On its first page he will find a dedication from his predecessor, Bush, and a comment saying by force alone we achieved the current results—a continuing presence at the oil wells and control of oil prices. On the following pages he will find all the information that is concealed from the world on the manner by which force was used. He will discover that America was behind the first Gulf war between Iraq and Iran and behind the second war from the beginning.

Even if this file convinces Clinton that force brought about an American presence in the Middle East and allies, followers and adherents, it will not convince him that it achieved all the hoped-for aims or even that it will keep what was achieved for long without being plunged into an entanglement with those who elected him. What will convince him that force did not bear all the expected fruits for Bush is the sudden awakening which pervaded

the peoples of the allies which threatens to make America a supporter of regimes that are rejected internally. Clinton will have no need to read again the page concerning Saddam Husayn because his election propaganda against Bush was mostly about the latter's failure to topple Saddam Husayn despite the billions that he spent. This failure was one of the strongest factors that convinced the American people that there are limits to force, limits that you cannot transcend, otherwise the magic will turn against the magician. It [force] confirmed to them that the policy of muscle-flexing has nothing behind it except coffins, funerals, industrial stagnation, and the increasing ranks of the unemployed.

What will Clinton think about his statement that he would recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel? We will answer this question in tomorrow's commentary, God willing.

Al-Bashir, State Minister Hold Talks 8 Nov

EA0911112592 Khartoum SUNA in English 1634 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 8 Nov (SUNA)—Chairman of the Revolution Command Council, RCC, Gen 'Umar al-Bashir met in his office at the secretariat-general of the Council of Ministers here Sunday [8 November] with the state minister at the Foreign Ministry Bishop Gabriel Roreg. Following the meeting, bishop on his recent tour to some European and African countries during which he had explained the government's serious peace in the country through Abuja peace talks. [sentence as received] Roreg pointed out that government's endeavours were appreciated by all countries he had visited. He further affirmed that a lasting peace would be attained through Abuja's next round of talks. [passage omitted]

Oil Production Under Way; First Batch in Khartoum

EA0911111392 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Text] The first batch of a consignment of Sudanese petroleum arrived in Khartoum yesterday evening from Abu Jabra area [in southern Darfur]. It was received by Dr. 'Uthman 'Abd-al-Wahhab, minister of energy and mining, and Dr. Awad Ahmad al-Jaz, minister of presidency affairs.

The minister of energy explained that the quantity that arrived is estimated at 400 tonnes in addition to 2,800 barrels of fuel oil [word indistinct]. He said these quantities, in addition to other derivatives, represent the experimental production of the Abu Jabra refinery. His excellency said that the commercial operation of Sudanese petroleum will begin towards the end of November, confirming that the production of Sudanese petroleum is being carried out by a Sudanese work force. He said quantities of the [word indistinct] oil amounting to 300 tonnes have been distributed to Babanusah dairy plant, and that quantities of gasoline for local use have

been distributed to southern Kordofan and the Armed Forces. The minister confirmed that the cost of producing Sudanese petroleum is regarded as cheap compared with production in other states of the world.

Equatoria Governor Briefs al-Bashir on Security

EA0811220692 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers, met at his office in the general secretariat of the Council of Ministers today Major General Saturnino Harikha, the governor of the State of Equatoria.

Following the meeting, the governor said that he had submitted to Maj. Gen. [as heard] 'Umar al-Bashir a report on performance in the state in all fields specially the progress of the scholastic year and attendance of pupils in schools. He said that work in all sectors was proceeding normally.

The governor said that the security situation in the state was calm and that the Armed Forces, the Popular Armed Forces, and the unified police were in overall control of the situation. The governor added that he had presented his thanks to Lt. Gen. al-Bashir for his decision providing for the addition of new ministries in the state to absorb the aspirations of the sons of the state in different fields. The ministries will increase the number of people in the state with experience in administration.

Health Minister on Country's Image Abroad

PM0211161292 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 30 Oct 92 pp 1, 6

[Telephone interview with Flight Brigadier Faysal Madani Mukhtar, member of the Revolutionary Command Council for National Salvation in Sudan and health minister, in Leiden, Holland, by Mu'awiyah Yasin in London, "yesterday"]

[Excerpts] [Yasin] Many accusations are being leveled at your country's government, focusing on the National Islamic Front's control of crucial decisionmaking there...

[Mukhtar] I personally believe that the Sudan issue cannot be resolved by a group, party, or tribe. Sudan is a very complex country and all efforts must be pooled to resolve its problems. [passage omitted]

[Yasin] You talk about pooling efforts while the opposition accuses you of being merely a tool in the National Islamic Front's hand...

[Mukhtar] Many officers have no links with the Front, and the Sudanese reality must be read correctly. This is because the policies pursued recently have produced a certain reality based on existing economic, influential, or political forces. [passage omitted]

[Yasin] The regime's image abroad is not good, and your country is experiencing severe isolation abroad. Do you really believe that you can challenge the whole world?

[Mukhtar] I do not support all foreign policies. Frankly they are not clear generally. There is a lack of institutions, and the return to state institutions is the main solution.

[Yasin] Your regime's media focus in an unusual way on the state's jihad character....

[Mukhtar] Any action inside Sudan is supposed to have its impact on foreign policy. And if the domestic front is strong and adopts a sound position, it will certainly be able to reach a sound assessment of the need for the jihad and popular defense, regardless of people's disagreement over that assessment.

At the domestic level I believe that concentration on the jihad has led to successes, but it has become a negative thing abroad. Thus a solution that is confined to the domestic level without any attention to foreign policy is erroneous.

There were mujahidin in Afghanistan, raising the same banner we are raising today in Sudan, but the United States supported them. The issue is not to do with the jihad. What is required is a real understanding of foreign interests in the region which should not be ignored.

The jihad has achieved results, but we cannot rely on ourselves in everything. It is now used against us. And I believe that, if the world powers' role is ignored, we will achieve no results, no matter how long we sit at the negotiating tables.

[Yasin] Khartoum talks about the regime's democracy. How can this be accepted, when the parliament is an appointed one?

[Mukhtar] The people's congresses system in its basic formula reflects some democracy. True, the present Transitional National Assembly is appointed. And because it is appointed, its members are bound to take account of specific balances, because they will not have the capability of elected deputies. Thus they will be less effective than elected deputies. There, in my view, the democracy being exercised is incomplete. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

State Security Court Sentences Collaborator

LD1011112492 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1016 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 10 Nov, KUNA—The State Security Court here today passed a sentence of 10 years imprisonment with labor, and deportation from the country on a person convicted of cooperation with the Iraqi authorities during Iraq's occupation of the State of Kuwait.

This sentence was passed on Sa'd 'A., who was convicted of helping the Iraqi occupier and working for Iraq's interest, in addition to taking measures to weaken the citizens' morale. [passage omitted]

Daily Calls for Publicizing Debate on Invasion

LD0911093392 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0715 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Text] Kuwait [dateline as received]—A Kuwaiti daily today called on the government and deputies of the National Assembly to make public the National Assembly sessions to debate the file of the treacherous Iraqi invasion public rather than holding them in camera. In its lead, "AL-RA'I AL-'AM" stresses that as long as the aim behind opening the file of the Iraqi invasion is an objective one, and the review and discussion in light of the facts and figures and the destruction, plunder, and violations that followed are objective, then there is no justification for holding the sessions of the National Assembly in camera because the people want to learn the whole facts. The paper added that holding the sessions in camera was not just an issue for the government and deputies alone; it concerns a people and the bitterness of a people who suffered a great deal. Therefore the sessions of the National Assembly should be held in public so that publicity will be the deciding factor.

Assembly Urges Overcoming GCC Differences

LD0911114192 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Appeal issued by the Kuwaiti National Assembly; date not given; read by announcer]

[Text] The National Assembly of the State of Kuwait, which is a dynamic member of the group of fraternal states comprising the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], and which are linked to each other by bonds of fraternity, amity, and love, wishes for understanding and concord among the sons of these states and for the ties of amity and kinship which bring their hearts closer together and unite them to prevail. Therefore, the National Assembly calls on the GCC member states—leaderships and peoples—to work in one single rank that does not [words indistinct] rejecting the marginal differences which trouble the calm of their strong, fraternal interrelations, thus robbing whoever is lying in wait for

us and whoever is trying to involve us in disputes and conflicts of opportunities from which he alone can benefit. This can only be achieved through mutual tolerance, good-offices, soft words, and good deeds so that amity and justice as well as understanding and mutual support can prevail.

[Words indistinct] the peoples of the Gulf and their leaders, and their aspirations for glory and pride confirm the confidence that there will be a positive response to this appeal which stems from true fraternal feelings dictated by a sincere conscience and imposed by the succession of events, by shared preoccupations, and by unity of destiny. May God make us all successful in attaining our dignity and unity, may He give us support, grant us victory, and guide us.

Oman

Foreign Minister on Impact of Clinton Win

PM1011105392 Muscat 'UMAN in Arabic 5 Nov 92 pp 1, 4

[Interview with Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, by Hammaud Bin-Salim al-Sibani; place, date not given]

[Text] [al-Sibani] Following His Majesty Sultan Qabus's congratulation to President Clinton, could you kindly talk to us about the future of Oman's relations with the United States under its new administration?

[Bin-'Abdallah] First of all we must recall that Omani-U.S. relations were at their peak in the days of the Democrats. And since 1980 these relations have begun to assume an even bigger meaning and dimension than before. So we are not alarmed at the Democrats' return to the White House. Omani-U.S. relations are governed by foundations which do not change with the change of the administration. These foundations are actually based on common interests. They are exemplary foundations and principles which should be safeguarded.

[Al-Sibani] Did Clinton's victory surprise Gulf decision-makers? And was it close to expectations? And is Gulf politics ready to deal with the new U.S. political development?

[Bin-'Abdallah] It is difficult to predict what the U.S. people will decide. But every decisionmaker anywhere in the world, especially in the Gulf, should be ready for any surprise. And I believe that President Bill Clinton's election should not be a surprise to Gulf states. This is because U.S. commitments in this region are fixed, and U.S. commitments toward security in the region were originally set by the Democrats, right from the announcement of Carter's principle. We should not regard Clinton's victory as a negative surprise. And it does not mean laxity on the part of the former administration, because they engaged in the biggest security

experience in the region in 1990. And I imagine that both the Republicans and the Democrats are in harmony with regard to Gulf security.

[Al-Sibani] The region has begun to recover from the Gulf crisis, and an atmosphere of reconciliation has begun to be reactivated in the region. In this connection President Clinton's hard-line position toward Iraq has been cited. Will this adversely affect the atmosphere of reconciliation?

[Bin-'Abdallah] I do not believe that the United States under its new administration will deviate from the UN framework. It will actually continue to deal with Iraq in accordance with these resolutions. Nor do I believe that the Democrats in their new administration will embark on stirring up problems in the Middle East. On the contrary, they will work to ease and indeed resolve them.

[Al-Sibani] Amid the confusion of the peace process in the Middle East and its halt at the U.S. station, the host has suddenly changed and a new U.S. face unknown at the Arab level has emerged. Will the tracks of the dialogue change with the change of host?

[Bin-'Abdallah] There are expectations that the Middle East issue could be marginalized. But the U.S. stance on peace in the Middle East is fixed, because it is endorsed by Congress. And I do not believe they will change with the change of faces. But the U.S. role could assume a different form. And the Arabs should not fear President Bill Clinton's administration, even because of the unknown faces. This is because the Middle East issue is now so clear that it can be dealt with by any administration. And I do not believe that the space available for the negotiators to maneuver leaves room for major changes, whether the former or present U.S. Administration is in power. This is because it is in any administration's interests for the negotiations to lead to a peace agreement.

[Al-Sibani] Your Excellency, you said that the U.S. stance is fixed despite the change of roles. Yet as is known, the Democrats started the peace process in Camp David through separate negotiations. The Republicans came along and broadened the circle of the dialogue. And the Democrats are coming back. So will Clinton proceed from Carter's station in Camp David, or will he advance the continuing dialogue? Or will he leave his own imprint?

[Bin-'Abdallah] Carter was behind the signing of the Camp David accords in the days of the Likud government...and they—by Arab standards—are hard-liners. And I will say once again that I do not believe there is a change in the U.S. stance on the Middle East. But new methods of dealing could emerge with the change of faces. But the political principles will remain fixed.

[Al-Sibani] Clinton presented his personal view on wars to the U.S. voter, calling for them to be opposed. So will this leave a personal imprint on his dealing with crises? And, consequently, will he force Israel to oppose war and

make the October war the last war? And will the Middle East under his administration witness the closing of the war file and the opening of the peace file?

[Bin-'Abdallah] Clinton's program is based on restoring a new spirit to economic activities. And his philosophy is based on the U.S. ability to play a distinctive role if its economic potential is sound. It will not be able to play such a role if its economic potential is otherwise. And this gives a picture of the stage ahead. But with regard to the Middle East, the phase of wars has ended.

[Al-Sibani] Does that mean that Clinton will organize his White House at the expense of the U.S. performance abroad? And do you believe that domestic concerns will distract him from the outside world?

[Bin-'Abdallah] That will not necessarily keep him away from world problems. But he will have a new viewpoint with regard to these problems—a viewpoint commensurate with what he can do in terms of domestic economic performance. It is stipulated in his election program, his campaign, and his aides' statements.

And although this presidential term is for four years and ends before the close of the century, this administration is expected to carry on into the next century—the 21st century—if it begins to work from now and in accordance with the methods devised by it. Perhaps it is not recommended to predict the details. However, the features of the coming stage are new. And I personally believe that if the wheel of U.S. industry turns in a good way, it will be in the world's interests, because it will add a new competitor to the world market, Japan, and Europe. And U.S. competitiveness could lead to cheaper high-quality products—which I believe would be in the interests of the world economy.

[Al-Sibani] American Jews gave their votes to Clinton. Does this electoral indication worry Arab decisionmakers?

[Bin-'Abdallah] I believe that that is an old complex in the context of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and I do not believe it enjoys much luck in U.S. reality. This is because U.S. minorities come from various origins and are not represented by the Jews alone. There are the Italians, Greeks, Mexicans, and Latin Americans. It was clear that the U.S. people wanted change. They did not want it to be a one-party system. If the Republican regime had continued after 12 years in power, it would have been called a one-party system in the United States.

Qatar

Amir Receives King Husayn Letter on 'Solidarity'

JN1011123092 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1145 GMT
10 Nov 92

[Text] Doha, 10 Nov (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, has received a message from Jordan's King

Husayn. The message deals with Arab and international developments as well as Arab solidarity. 'Amir Kham-mash, member of the Jordanian Senate and envoy of the Jordanian monarch, conveyed the message to the amir during a meeting today. The meeting was attended by His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and defense minister.

Saudi Arabia

Official Source Refutes Oil Weekly's Report

LD0811195592 Riyadh SPA in English 1935 GMT 8
Nov 92

[Text] Riyadh, Nov 8, SPA—An official source in the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources announced that what has been published in the PETROLEUM INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY's [PIW] latest issue dated November 9, 1992 regarding the Kingdom's oil production and marketing policy is completely baseless.

The source went on to say that the publication's contention that "while the total for Saudi external crude sales plus domestic refining will probably rise by some 400,000 b/d [barrels per day] this month, to around 8.8 million b/d, the increment is slated to go into refineries at home," is a total fabrication.

The source also referred to the publication's claim that "Oil Minister Hisham Nazir confirmed last September that 200,000 b/d of Saudi output in August, or a total of some six million barrels, was dedicated for storage." This is totally untrue and far from real. Minister Nazir did not say this to PIW or any other publication.

Furthermore, the source announced that the publication's estimates of Saudi crude exports and what has been directed to end-user markets as well as to storages are all imaginary figures.

Yemen

Council Sets Parliament Elections for 27 Apr

JN0511210492 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network
in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Text] The Presidential Council held a meeting this afternoon under its chairman, brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, in the presence of brother Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, speaker of the Council of Representatives; Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas; Judge Muhammad Isma'il al-Hajji, president of the Higher Court; and Minister of Legal Affairs Isma'il al-Wazir.

The council discussed several issues and developments of interest to our Yemeni homeland. In particular, the council considered the results of the expanded consultative meeting which concluded today. The meeting brought together the Presidential Council, the Consultative Council, the Higher Court, the Speakership of the Council of Representatives, the prime minister and his deputies, the Higher Committee for Elections, as well as leaders of organizations and political parties represented in the Higher Committee for Elections.

The Presidential Council approved a date for elections to the Council of Representatives of Tuesday 6 Dhi al-Qi'dah 1413 Hegira, corresponding to 27 April 1993, in accordance with what was set by the Higher Committee for Elections following the results of the expanded consultative meeting.

The Presidential Council asserted that all officials and popular organs and agencies, as well as political forces, should undertake their national role and responsibilities to create a suitable climate to conduct general elections for the Council of Representatives on that date.

The Presidential Council praised all efforts being made to prepare for the first-ever parliamentary elections in our Yemeni homeland after it regained its unity. The Presidential Council also discussed several issues on its agenda and made appropriate decisions in their regard.

Saddam Says 'Enemies' Should Reconsider Stands*JN0911181592 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Nov 92*

[Text] Let the enemies of Iraq hear; let those who are greater than Iran and than the agent cliques which it activates hear that even if they grow very old, the men of Iraq act zealously when they hear the sound of bullets, and take up arms, along with their sons, in defense of the homeland and its stability. When Iraq is in this spirit, its enemies should reconsider their stands and respect the will of Iraq and let it decide its destiny by itself.

With these strong, frank words, leader President Saddam Husayn spoke today at a ceremony held to honor the al-Basrah governor, the secretary of its party branch, several comrade party members, officers and other ranks in our valiant Armed Forces and the brave Internal Security Forces, as well as a number of tribal leaders and dignitaries of the honorable citizens who were motivated by their national zeal to stand in one line with their brothers and sons in the party and the state organs to defend their villages and cities in the face of the infiltration operations fostered and motivated by the Iranian Government across our border in a failed, frustrated attempt to shake stability and create chaos in the beloved south of the homeland.

The leader president added: As days go by, the capabilities of a genuine nation and a genuine people become greater; their awareness gains more depth; and their beliefs become stronger. Thank God that all Iraqis race, with strong beliefs, to embrace glory and virtue.

The leader president said: Our approach is self-reform. We hope, God willing, that the bad will change their course and follow the example of the good. If this happens, we will be glad. If it does not, the bad will be the losers, because our people have chosen a path for which they have made great sacrifices. No power on earth can make our people change the path they have chosen. When good people side with someone, this person will not fear any power on earth.

Addressing the attendees, the leader president said: Praise to God who has made your country and people take pride in you, your clans, the party, and the men of your state. The stands you have demonstrated are the required stands. This is the way men should be.

The leader president conveyed good news to Iraqis in general, and the residents of the southern region in particular, about the abundant good that will come forth from the leader's river and the fourth river which his excellency called the river of the Mother of Battles. He said: The yield will be even more than Iraq needs.

Addressing his comrade Ba'thists, leader President Saddam Husayn said: If you do not fight, you will never be anything. If anyone says I am a Ba'thist and does not fight well, then we must doubt his allegiance. Anyone who insists that he cannot fight should leave the party, and we will never argue about this.

The ceremony was attended by Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, member of the Revolution Command Council and defense minister; Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, chief of the Presidential Office; and fighter Staff General Iyad Futayyih Khalifah al-Rawi, Army chief of staff.

Kidnapping of U.S. Expert Reportedly Kidnapped*NC0911180892 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Nov 92*

[Text] International observers have foiled an attempt by agents of tyrant Saddam Husayn's regime to kidnap a U.S. expert near the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border. UN sources said in press statements yesterday that four Iraqis intercepted (William Smith), who works in the border region for a mine-removal company. They got in (Smith's) car and asked him to take them to their commander in the area.

The sources said the incident took place the day before yesterday [7 November] in the Kuwaiti side of the demilitarized region. They explained that two of the agents were wearing military uniforms and that one of them was carrying a pistol.

The outcast regime kidnapped American Chad Hall on 9 October and was forced to release him after receiving a strongly worded U.S. threat.

Turkish Envoys Meet With Barzani, Talabani*NC0711184392 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Nov 92*

[Text] Two senior Turkish Foreign Ministry officials, Turkekul Kurttekin and Cenk (Yuvade), arrived in Iraqi Kurdistan the day before yesterday carrying a message from Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel to Kurdish brother leaders Jalal Talabani and Mas'ud Barzani.

Our radio has learned from a reliable source that Demirel's message dealt with some points concerning recent developments on the borders of the region. In his message, Demirel expressed his desire to clarify the position on the ongoing events and stressed his government's commitment to the security and protection of all citizens—Kurds, Turkomans, and others—in Iraqi Kurdistan from any possible attack by the Iraqi forces. The message stressed that Turkey has no ambitions in Iraqi territory and that the goal of the Turkish forces is to prevent the terrorists from attacking Turkey from the borders. The message said that there is no reason for concern or complaints about the presence of these forces and that their stay is temporary. It expressed the hope that no obstacles will be placed in their path.

The same source said that brother leaders Talabani and Barzani welcomed the two Turkish Government envoys, regarding it as a very positive visit and commendable gesture by Prime Minister Demirel showing his concern and commitment to protecting the civilian population from any attack by Iraqi forces. The two leaders stressed

to the visiting delegation that there was no need for the Turkish forces to enter Iraqi Kurdistan's territory, and that consequently, there is no need for them to stay there. They called for their immediate withdrawal.

The two Kurdish leaders emphasized that the regional Kurdistan government has succeeded in peacefully solving the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) problem. The PKK has agreed to leave the border areas and move to designated areas. It also guaranteed that it will not use Iraqi Kurdistan to stage armed operations against Turkey. Brother leaders Talabani and Barzani thanked Demirel for his commitment to his pledges and for facilitating the passage of humanitarian aid to Iraqi Kurdistan through Turkey and also for sending the two envoys, adding that this indicates interest in the relations between the two sides.

The two Kurdish leaders expressed hope that Turkey will not fall into the trap set up for it by some parties in order to sever or disturb its relations and good friendship with the people of Iraqi Kurdistan.

The two leaders also expressed concern over the expected meeting between Iran, Syria, and Turkey on 14 and 15 November and said they consider this interference in Iraq's domestic affairs. They said that neither Iran nor Syria has the right to discuss the situation in Iraq with Turkey and that if there are specific problems, then they could be resolved through bilateral relations between the aforementioned parties and not through meetings and treaties similar to the Sa'dabad Treaty, the Baghdad Pact, and the Cenko Treaty.

The Turkish delegation stressed that the tripartite meeting is not directed against the Kurdish people.

Kurdish Parties' Role in PKK 'Genocide' Criticized

JN0911151392 Baghdad INA in English 1325 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 9, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily for today denounced the role played by the Kurdish Parties' Front in the wide genocide operations to which the Turkish Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) members are subjected.

The daily said it was not the first time that the front elements committed such criminal acts against their fellow men, for they had cooperated with Khomeyni regime before against armed groups from the Iranian Kurds.

It stressed that these facts reflected the moral degradation of these parties which claimed to be representatives of the Kurdish people.

Shiite Radio Comments on Opposition Conference

NC0611220392 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Political commentary]

[Text] We all recognize the difficult circumstances under which the Iraqi opposition conference convened in Irbil and the many complications that were introduced into the Iraqi cause and the international, regional, and domestic factors involved. Undoubtedly, the same circumstances will affect opposition action on the level of the salvation project in Iraq or [words indistinct] the expected results.

The spokesman for the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] made the following statement last Saturday in response to the formula the Presidential Committee proposed during the conference: We reject any move that entrenches sectarianism, from which we have all suffered in one form or another in Iraq. We believe that [word indistinct] in Iraq does not go along with any proposal the objective of which is to fragment Iraq's unity, despite our belief that cooperation, after changing the regime, should be based on recognition of our Iraqi people's reality, with their religious, ethnic, and factional diversity. Inasmuch as we have been concerned about supporting opposition action from the beginning, we are also concerned about the unity of our people and that Iraq continue to absorb the grievances of all Iraqis, realize their ambitions, preserve their doctrines, and solve their problems in such a way that no one is the oppressor or the oppressed.

An important demand, such as federalism, must be entrusted unto the people after the regime is toppled. We should not allow one rival [word indistinct] to remove Saddam and his clique from Iraq's arena over any other rival.

Any achievement of [word indistinct] action must first receive the respect and acceptance of our people and then truly express the unity of the opposition, among whom the atmosphere is no longer alien after all the years of joint jihad and struggle [word indistinct] flow of blood from the Kurds, [word indistinct], the Shiites, and the Sunnis over Iraq's territory.

Our masses, who have suffered for too long and have been alienated from the homeland and its atmosphere, wish to see the achievements of the opposition harmonizing with their ambitions and hopes which they have long waited for. The participation of SAIRI in the conferences, and in this conference in particular, proceeds from these grounds. Our efforts will continue to meet with the efforts of others to realize the honorable task. We support escalating opposition action in all fields. We wish the opposition conference success in realizing its objective and achieving all the results in the interest of our future.

Kurdish 'Minister' Seeking Economic Aid for Winter*NC0611173992 Paris AFP in English 1607 GMT 6 Nov 92*

[Report by Antoine Lazerge]

[Text] Irbil, Iraq, Nov 7 (AFP)—Iraqi Kurdistan, brimming with oil, is reduced to begging for a few thousand tons of fuel to help it through the winter, Kurdish economy and finance "minister" Salah-al-din al-Hafiz told AFP here.

He said the United Nations must confer some form of legal status on the Kurdish controlled region, which is covered by the embargo imposed on the whole of Iraq after the August 1990 invasion of Kuwait. It is also starved of supplies because of an embargo imposed by Baghdad, which has lost control of a large swathe of Kurdish territory in the north.

Al-Hafiz said the measure would not constitute recognition of an independent Kurdistan but would offer the region the possibility of "survival and of organizing itself without depending on the major powers' charity."

Iraqi Kurds live atop one of the richest petroleum reserves in the world, with heavy oil even seeping into wells and polluting the water. But a lack of refining capability to help prepare for the winter months is forcing Kurdistan to ask for help from international organizations due to a blockade by Baghdad.

Short of international recognition, the self-styled government of Iraqi Kurdistan which was formed after a parliamentary election in May, cannot sign agreements to develop its natural resources, al-Hafiz said.

A 10-day European Community mission to the region estimated that 147,000 tons of fuel were needed for the Kurdish population to make it through the winter and suggested that they be purchased on the Turkish market. "The first priority is fuel: kerosene for heating and cooking and diesel for trucks and tractors," al-Hafiz said.

"Half the crops are rotting in the fields because there is no diesel for tractors," al-Hafiz said.

He said pressure on Iraq to permit the passage of fuel would help resolve part of the problem in a matter of hours. Lack of fuel has triggered inflation in the north where petrol costs 25 dinars (about a dollar) a litre against .70 dinars in the south—at black market rates.

Al-Hafiz said it was impossible to produce kerosene without a specialized refinery, but that could not be built without international firms which had been contacted but feared antagonizing Baghdad.

Mamand Elected Kurdistan Socialist Party Leader*JN0711205292 (Clandestine) Radio Kurdistan in Arabic 1640 GMT 7 Nov 92*

[Text] At the conclusion of the second congress of the Kurdistan Socialist Party, elections were held to choose the secretary general and members of the leadership committee. At the conclusion of the elections, eight members representing the leading executive committee of the party were elected along with five reserve members.

Muhammad al-Shaykhali and Sawalih al-Wardi were elected to the leadership unanimously and through party nomination. Comrade struggler Rasul Mamand was elected to the post of secretary general of the Kurdistan Socialist Party also by a unanimous vote and through party nomination.

Islamic Newspaper Article Called Anti-Kurdish*NC1011164492 Al-Sulaymaniyah Iraq Voice of the Kurdistan Revolution Radio in Arabic 1718 GMT 9 Nov 92*

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Doubtless a free exchange of views on the Iraqi scene can clarify some issues that would otherwise appear ambiguous to some, biased to others, or merely careless. We do not want to pass lightly over some erroneous views that are aired here and there or disregard some hearts full of hatred whose owners have learned nothing and who wish to parrot statements about Saddam-style solutions, although they write in opposition newspapers. We do not want to pass lightly over this issue, although some of these newspapers publish the admonition that the writer's view does not reflect the view of the publication itself. Merely publishing such articles means that the people in charge of the newspaper accept these views or at least sympathize with them. We do not want to remove anyone's freedom, writing or drawing red lines over writers' language and ideas. If a certain person offends us and ignores realities, our retaliation will be twofold so that this person will understand what he is writing and for whom and so that he may choose subjects that are appropriate to the regional and Iraqi political situation.

We say this after reading an article published in the newspaper AL-SHAHID's 293d issue on 28 October under the title: How long will this vicious circle continue? The newspaper is published by the Islamic Action Organization [IAO], which is led by Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Taqi Mudarrisi. The IAO is suffering a major divisive movement led by 'Allamah Muhsin al-Husayni, who represented the organization at a conference held a month before the recent Iraqi opposition conference in Salah al-Din.

The article was written by Anwar 'Izz-al-Din, who tries his hardest to spew poison and black ideas onto the pages

of this newspaper, which is freely distributed in Kurdistan, but banned in Arab countries. The writer tries hard to belittle the Kurdish leadership and suggests that it is idiotic and incapable of understanding issues properly. He strongly criticizes measures adopted by the leaders of the Kurdish movement to achieve our national rights. In the manner of Ba'thist politicians, he repeatedly uses the phrase northern Iraq instead of Kurdistan. He is like other Arab chauvinists [preceding word in English] and racists who unjustly show enmity to our people, want us to remain servants and slaves to them, and launch their accursed chemical attacks on our wronged people. Sometimes they do this on the pretext of pan-Arabism and at other times, in the name of religion, hoping all the time to get rid of this heroic nation that has become a paragon of heroism and selfless sacrifice. The world, except some haters, the regime's favorites, and the bloody regime, has recognized that it is a wronged nation.

Concluding the article, the writer blatantly declares that the Kurdish people's representatives must abandon their decision to establish federal rule in northern Iraq, as he called it. He announces that if there is any development in Iraq, it will be difficult for it to include northern Iraq unless the Kurds abandon what they have proclaimed and refrain from similar proclamations.

Yes. This is what Anwar 'Izz-al-Din says. This is what he advises us to do. This might also be the view of the IAO leadership, which [words indistinct] except Kurdistan. Even in Iran, al-Mudarrisi cannot disseminate his ideas publicly, because his media apparatus and his newswriters include such a snake, which bites whenever it has the chance and tries its best to offend our people, their national cause, and, occasionally, even others [sentence as heard].

From this rostrum, we tell all those dismayed by the democratic process, which must continue in Kurdistan after the dictatorship ends: Our people do not heed such nonsensical, bitter statements. It is our duty to state that he who lives in a glass house must not throw stones.

Head of Kurdistan Legislative Council Cables Saddam

JN0711181992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1312 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Nov (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a cable from Baha' al-Din Ahmad, head of the Legislative Council of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region, on the start of the council's autumn session. The cable says:

I am pleased to send to your esteemed person our great appreciation and deep respect, beseeching Almighty God to enable us to continue our struggle and construction under your wise leadership, to create more militant formulas, and to adhere to sacrifice and death-defying patient struggle to burn all the cards of conspiracy and aggression and to score a decisive victory over the evil aggressors, who have begun falling at the will of

Almighty God and as a result of the steadfastness of His good people in the land of prophets, history, and civilization.

He added: Bush has fallen, and Iraq's people will remain eternal in history. Saddam Husayn remained to lead his people in the Iraq of glory and construction. The tyrant has fallen, and our joy reflects our human position that is opposed to the aggressive, evil behavior. The fall is a result of our splendid steadfastness and our sound human principles.

He also stressed that at the start of their 1992 autumn session, the representatives of our Kurdish people are looking forward, along with the good Iraqis, to the day of salvation from the treacherous, renegade ones, who are destroying Iraq's Kurdistan to terminate its autonomy, which was engineered by President Saddam Husayn to enable our Kurdish people to enjoy their national and cultural rights.

Concluding, he said: While they stress their total affiliation to Iraq, as well as their loyalty to the homeland's heritage and national unity, our Kurdish people's representatives pledge to President Saddam Husayn, as loyal men, to remain loyal to the homeland's march, which he is leading toward the beach of peace and safety.

Council Opens Fall Session

JN0711175592 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1305 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Text] Nov 7 (INA)—[dateline as received] The Legislative Council of the Kurdistan autonomous region today held its first meeting within its fall session under its speaker Baha' al-Din Ahmad.

In a speech on the occasion, the speaker said that by beginning this session, the Legislative Council recalls with pride President Saddam Husayn's role in formulating the 11 March declaration, the issuance of the Autonomy law, and the birth of the legislative and executive institutions of the Kurdistan autonomous region and their activities to realize our Kurdish people's hopes and aspirations for a decent life and give them the opportunity to effectively contribute to building a new Iraq and strengthen the spirit of Arab-Kurdish brotherhood and deepen its national and human connotations.

The speaker said: The development and progress of the Autonomous Region in all fields and the happy and decent life which the Kurdistan people have enjoyed could not have been realized without the extraordinary and direct care of the architect of the autonomy and sponsor of its march, President Saddam Husayn, and his excellency's relentless efforts to realize the aspirations of our people which did not stop at achievements and measures but went beyond to include direct supervision and field inspections to learn about the Kurdish people and their development and progress.

Baha' al-Din Ahmad said that President Saddam Husayn's visit to the region and his face-to-face meeting

with our Kurdish people, and his excellency's continuous affirmation that the autonomy experiment should take its real and distinguished place within the march of the glorious 17-30 July Revolution is clear proof of this sponsorship and special concern for this experiment.

The speaker asserted that the genuine patriotism of every noble Iraqi compels him to support President Saddam Husayn's wise leadership because he is the symbol of Arab and Kurdish dignity.

Ahmad said: It is time our Kurdish people shouldered their responsibilities as noble Iraqi citizens and rejected living under the shadow of terrorism, oppression, and flagrant foreign interference. We must confront all those who seek the help of the foreigner. We must adhere to autonomy more than ever before and work to strengthen and develop this experiment whose foundations were laid down by President Saddam Husayn because it is our choice and the monument of our national unity.

Following the speech, the council's secretary Husam Dawud read a report on the Council's activities for the last period and the activities of its secretariat and committees in the political, economic, and social fields and the situation in the Kurdistan Autonomous region in the absence of law and order.

Sunni Loyalists Said Growing Resentful of Regime

NC0711160092 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1340 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Text] The desperate tyrant has placed his terrorist security forces, emergency forces, and personal guard units on maximum alert in light of the deteriorating conditions in al-Anbar, Salah al-Din, and Mosul Governorates.

The regime's fruitless precautions point to the growing resentment and unrest in Iraqi Sunni Muslim circles and among Sunni clansmen, who are weary of the regime's terrorist policies. Political observers and analysts believe that Saddam's regime is drawing ever closer to its demise. The Sunnis, who used to form the backbone of Saddam's governmental structure, have begun to feel the regime's oppression the same as the Shiite majority which constitutes more than two-thirds of the country's population.

Shiite Radio Reports 'Extensive' Arrests in South

NC0711164092 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1340 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Text] Saddam's criminal regime mounted an extensive campaign of arrests in the al-Maymunah area of valiant al-Amarah [Maysan] Governorate in late October, detaining more than 70 citizens on charges of cooperating and sympathizing with the popular forces.

A few days ago, Saddam's security forces arrested nearly 600 young men in each of the governorates located

within the air exclusion zone. They are holding them hostage to pressure the people and avert the eruption of a new popular rebellion that might topple the props of the hollow regime.

An official in charge of a revolutionary committee belonging to the triumphant popular forces said early this week that the ostracized regime is exploiting current domestic, regional, and international conditions and waiting for an opportunity to pounce on the citizens of the south, particularly in the steadfast marshlands. The marshlands' citizens have been subjected to an economic and military siege for a year and a half with the aim of subsequently exterminating them and obliterating their cultural and Islamic heritage.

16 Cluster Bombs Defused in Al-Muthanna Province

JN0711162892 Baghdad INA in English 1340 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Text] Al-Samawah, south of Iraq, Nov. 7, INA—Civil Defence teams in al-Muthanna Province defused 16 cluster bombs dropped on civilian districts and farms by enemy planes during the 30-state aggression on Iraq.

Director of the Civil Defence Department in the province told INA that civil defence teams continue their search for unexploded bombs in the province.

Russian Parliament Opposition Group Visits

JN0911155892 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Nov (INA)—A Russian Parliament delegation led by Sergey Baburin, head of the Russian opposition's Parliamentary Unity Bloc, arrived in Baghdad today on a several-day visit to Iraq.

The delegation will hold talks with National Assembly officials on parliamentary relations between Iraq and Russia and ways of promoting them.

The delegation is made up of Sirmiv, assistant to the delegation's head; Pavlov and Firazov, members of the Russian Parliament; Korson, head of the Economic Cooperation League in the Commonwealth of Independent States; Lieutenant General Agalov, deputy commander of the Air Defense Forces in Russia; and Major Vashinker, coordinator of the Russian Parliamentary Unity Bloc and former adviser at the Russian Embassy in Baghdad.

Meets With Parliament Speaker

JN0911160292 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1415 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Nov (INA)—National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih today received a Russian Parliament delegation, led by Sergey Baburin, head of the Russian opposition's Parliamentary Unity Bloc.

During the meeting, the National Assembly speaker emphasized Iraq's willingness to promote relations of friendship and cooperation with Russia in the interest of the two fraternal nations and in a manner that would bolster their struggle against all forms of hegemony, exploitation, and domination.

He added that Iraq wants to turn over a new leaf in its relations with Russia on the basis of facing challenges, achieving joint interests, and bolstering the struggle of the two peoples against colonialism and Zionism and their objectives of striking at liberation forces in the region, subjecting them to hegemony and blackmail, as well as controlling their economic resources and capabilities.

The head and members of the Russian delegation expressed their pride in, and appreciation for, Iraq's stands in the face of imperialist-Zionist hegemony that aims at undermining the unity of the Iraqi people and the present and future of the Arab nation.

During the meeting, the attendees reviewed developments in the Arab and international arenas in light of continued U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist plotting against Iraq in various chapters and by various sinister means.

Denounces U.S. 'Piracy'

JN1011095392 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Nov (INA)—A National Assembly delegation led by Dr. Safa' Salih al-Umar, chairman of the Arab and International Committee, met yesterday with a Russian parliamentary delegation led by Sergey

Baburin, head of the Russian opposition's Parliamentary Unity Bloc. The two sides discussed aspects of cooperation between the National Assembly and the Russian Parliament and ways of promoting them in the interest of the two friendly peoples. The two sides also discussed the continuing exchange of visits.

Dr. Safa' al-Umar presented a detailed review of the extent of destruction inflicted by the states of aggression, led by the United States, on the services, industrial, and economic facilities as well as the infrastructural losses. He noted that the colonialist forces continue to perpetrate the plot against Iraq.

(Sergey Baburin) described the continuation of the blockade on Iraq's children, elderly, and women as a violation of international norms, charters, and human rights. He denounced American piracy represented by the seizure of part of the Iraqi people's assets in foreign banks. He also denounced the American-French-British plan aimed at encroaching on Iraq's unity and interfering in its internal affairs. He affirmed that the endorsement by Russia of all anti-Iraq resolutions reflected governmental rather than parliamentary support for these resolutions, since the Russian Parliament strongly opposed them as they run counter to the letter and spirit of the friendship treaty binding the two friendly peoples.

The head of the Russian parliamentary delegation demanded the withdrawal of the Russian naval vessels from the Gulf region and their return to their bases.

Katyusha Attacks From Southern Lebanon Continue**Galilee Hit***TA1011055792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 10 Nov 92*

[Text] Several Katyushas landed in the Galilee Panhandle last night. There were no casualties and only minor damage was caused to property. Many residents along the northern border slept in air raid shelters and reinforced rooms. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that it was decided that schools will remain open today in the northern border settlements and people will go to work as usual.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 0500 GMT on 10 November reports that "a few minutes ago, a few Katyushas fell in the north, this time in the western Galilee. There are no reports of casualties."]

Last night, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] shelled terrorist targets north of the security zone, and its forces are on high alert. Our correspondent pointed out that approximately 50 Katyushas have landed in the north over the past two days.

Israel has warned Syria and Lebanon that it will not be able to tolerate the Katyusha attacks and that the IDF will retaliate if the attacks on the northern border settlements continue. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe notes that the warning was delivered through the United States and handed to the Syrian and Lebanese delegations to the peace talks. Israel clarified that if Lebanon fails to maintain calm along the northern border, the IDF will be forced to strike at targets inside Lebanese territory and disrupt the quiet there as well. Earlier, the Hizballah organization declared that it will continue to fight Israel until southern Lebanon is liberated. Hizballah vowed that there will be no stability or peace in the region.

The Israeli delegation to the talks with Lebanon will consult with Jerusalem this morning to decide whether to attend today's meetings despite the Katyusha firings. Our correspondent in Washington Shlomo Raz reports that the assessment is that the delegation will attend the meeting as planned. The meeting with the Lebanese delegation yesterday was conducted in a tense atmosphere and stopped shortly after it began.

IDF Forces Mass Along Border*TA1011101892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 10 Nov 92*

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has begun concentrating forces along the northern border. This was reported by our army affairs correspondent, Karmela Menashe. Residents of the northern settlements saw columns of tank transporters and other heavy military vehicles on the roads leading north.

The IDF takes a very grave view of the Katyusha firings and other Hizballah activities, and military sources today said that the State of Israel and the IDF will not permit Hizballah to drag the northern settlements and the entire country into a war of attrition. The senior military command is constantly evaluating the situation on the northern border. The northern settlements are on a high state of alert and are maintaining continuous contact with the Army authorities.

Deputy Defense Minister on Situation*TA1011071092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 10 Nov 92*

[Telephone interview with Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhai Gur by Me'ir Einstein—live]

[Text] [Einstein] Good morning, Deputy Defense Minister Gur.

[Gur] Good morning.

[Einstein] The Air Force bombs Hizballah, and it responds with Katyushas. The residents on the northern border huddle in air raid shelters. How long will this be the routine in the north?

[Gur] We hope that it will not continue for a long time. On the one hand, we are determined to pursue the peace process and not allow it to be disrupted, but we also want to be sure that our actions in Lebanon are appropriate and necessary. The moment it becomes clear that Hizballah is violating the rules of behavior that were in force there for the past several years and has begun targeting our settlements, we will obviously have to take the required steps. I imagine that it will not be long before it is driven home to them that they are not the only ones setting the rules and that it is Israel who has the power to set them.

[Einstein] I do not think that your statements or the fact that people are getting hurt on the other side of the border as a result of the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] activity will bring much solace to the residents of northern Israel, who have been spending their nights in air raid shelters. The question is: What will be done to put an end to this? We heard that the Syrians have been asked to restrain Hizballah. I understand that such an appeal proved helpful several weeks ago.

[Gur] First of all, you clearly realize that I will not tell you our exact plans over the radio.

[Einstein] I was not talking about operative plans.

[Gur] We also will not inform the residents, even though our relations with the residents living along the border are so close and intimate that we keep them in the picture regarding all our considerations, and they understand that we do not want to make things any worse than need be. Nonetheless, we shall take every action demanded by the situation.

As for the political direction, our warnings and determination not to tolerate this situation have been delivered both to the Syrians and to the Lebanese, because the Syrians undoubtedly wield very significant—if perhaps not total—control over Hizballah activity, its bases, training centers, and supply and transportation lines. If the Syrians had wanted to take charge of things, they have a greater capability to do so. We also delivered messages in other ways to make them understand that any conflagration in Lebanon could be uncomfortable for Syria as well, because they have a political, military, and economic presence there. They must understand that we cannot sit still while Katyushas keep falling inside our territory. In my opinion, such clarifications were effective in the past. It is impossible to know whether it will also be effective this time, but we will not wait very long to determine whether it is working, because Israeli citizens in the northern part of the country are suffering from Katyusha attacks—and several Katyushas landed in the western sector just now. Therefore, beyond any political warnings or messages, it must be clear to the citizens of southern Lebanon who harbor the Hizballah in the midst and to the Lebanese Government and Hizballah leaders that if the residents of northern Israel are not allowed to live in peace, then life will not be easy on the Lebanese side of the border, and the IDF's capability to do this has been proven numerous times in the past.

[Einstein] The exacerbation of the last two days followed two weeks of quiet. This time it came in the wake of an Air Force bombing initiated by us. The Katyusha fire was Hizballah's response.

[Gur] Your description of the situation is all wrong.

[Einstein] How would you describe it?

[Gur] Since the incident two weeks ago, there has not been one day or night without hostile activity by Hizballah. Fortunately, the IDF and the SLA [South Lebanese Army] prevailed in these incidents without sustaining any casualties. During this period, there were at least seven roadside bombs similar to the deadly charge that killed five of our soldiers.

[Einstein] But these bombs were activated in southern Lebanon.

[Gur] Yes, I am talking about southern Lebanon. In other words, there was no halt in Hizballah activity, and the IDF's reaction was absolutely necessary. We cannot allow Hizballah to operate freely against our soldiers wherever the IDF is stationed. Our activity was directed against Hizballah's military bases and not civilian concentrations. We made every possible effort not to harm civilians. We struck at clear military targets belonging to Hizballah, and their forces sustained casualties—all this within the framework of the struggle in the southern Lebanon security strip.

What appears to be the radical difference this time—as we waited to see whether Hizballah had indeed changed

its basic parameters, because we do not know exactly on what they base their situation evaluations—is that instead of limiting their activity to the southern Lebanon security zone, they have decided to bring the activity into Israel by firing Katyushas at our civilians along the border. This change is clearly a Hizballah provocation without any provocation on our part. Even now, I still do not understand their motivation and situation assessment, because they know that the IDF can retaliate and operate in a far wider scope than it has until now; however, perhaps this is one of those secrets that will only be answered with time. Maybe we will have to undertake a different kind of activity, and we will not refrain from taking any step that will restore quiet there.

[Einstein] Thank you, Deputy Minister Gur.

Minister Ben-Eli'ezer Lebanon

TA1011091492 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600
GMT 10 Nov 92

[Telephone interview with Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer by Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Dan] Who is setting the rules now in southern Lebanon and who is actually being led by whom?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] In my assessment, the current policy is being set by Hizballah itself. I have not the slightest doubt about this. I think that any Hizballah policy change that could lead to a far more serious situation would require prior coordination with Iran. I think that even now they are coordinating things with the Iranians, but any dramatic and long-standing change would require much more extensive coordination and instructions from Iran. Syria is in the background. I would put things differently: If Syria wished to intervene to stop things it could, but it has refrained from getting involved. [passage omitted]

[Dan] What about the recent claim by UN inspectors that Syria has stationed missiles and artillery less than 25 km from the border and is thereby violating the disengagement agreements. How long can Israel remain silent and be content with issuing hints?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] These are two different issues. The fact that Syria has missiles should be handled in other ways, through the United Nations or other representatives. These missiles have still not been put to use against the State of Israel, which is the issue we are talking about. Right now, we have a problem with Hizballah. Hizballah must realize one thing: Israel, although it has temporarily shown restraint, will not be able to remain silent for long. Israel will eventually react and with full force.

[Friedman] In other words, after the Air Force bombings and artillery fire failed to achieve quiet along the border, we may have to adopt other methods against them?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I will clearly not get into any details here. I am merely saying that Israel—its government and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]—is responsible for the security of its citizens, and we will fulfill that responsibility. Hizballah must realize one thing: We will not be able to tolerate the escalation or new level of violence Hizballah is trying to dictate by firing missiles at Israel's northern border. Israel will not accept this.

[Dan] You must be familiar with the recurring proposals to expand the security zone?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] We have an excellent army and great security forces, and I still believe there are enough measures we can adopt before we reach that stage. I am not among those who believe that expanding the security zone is the answer.

[Friedman] Thank you, Minister Ben-Eli'ezer.

UN Says Syria Violating Disengagement Agreements

TA1011090592 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 10 Nov 92 p 3

[Report by Aharon Klein]

[Text] The Syrians are violating the disengagement agreements on the Golan Heights. This was reported by a team of UN observers on the Golan, which found Syrian surface-to-air missiles and long-range artillery placed inside the thin-out strip along its border with Israel, in violation of the disengagement agreements with Israel.

The UN sources reported that in an inspection they conducted on Syrian territory on 4 November, the observers found that the Syrians have 21 surface-to-air missiles and eight launchers in the thin-out strip along the Israeli border, less than 25 km from the border, in a clear contravention of the disengagement agreements.

The inspection also found that the Syrians have eight cannons with a range of more than 20 km in the region of Tall al-Harrah, also in violation of the disengagement agreements with Israel. Tall al-Harrah is located some 13 km east of the border with Israel in the central sector of the Golan Heights. The UN observers also filed a protest with the Syrians over their claim that they were not allowed to inspect seven sites along the Israeli border.

According to the disengagement agreements Israel and Syria signed in 1974 after the Yom Kippur War, several thin-out strips were determined on both sides of the border. According to the agreement, the Syrians are not allowed to place artillery with a range of more than 20 km inside the 20 km-wide strip along the border and are prohibited from placing surface-to-air missiles and their launchers within the boundaries of a 25 km-wide strip along the border. According to the agreement, the UN observers conduct periodic inspections on both sides of the border and report their findings to the other party.

The missiles and long-range artillery that were found constitute a violation of the agreements. A report on the inspection findings was handed to Israel.

According to the sources, the inspection report further states that, in the first 10 km-wide thin-out strip along the border, the Syrians have 73 tanks, 36 short-range cannons, and over 2,100 soldiers. This, however, does not violate the agreements.

The sources noted that they found no violations on the Israeli side. The UN team carried out its inspection of the Israeli side on 5 November. The United Nations protested to Israel that its observers were not allowed to inspect seven sites on the Israeli side of the Golan Heights.

Rabin Personally Congratulates Clinton on Win

TA0911173792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin talked with President-elect Bill Clinton a short time ago. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Mr. Rabin congratulated Mr. Clinton on his election and wished him success as leader of the free world. The prime minister also reported to Clinton on the continuation of the peace talks in Washington and Hizballah activities against Israel over the past 24 hours. President-Elect Clinton told the prime minister that he supports the continuation of the peace process, as he said in their meeting in Washington three months ago.

Embassy Official on U.S. Foreign Aid Budget

TA0711095092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Text] Amnon Neubach, the economic counselor at the Israeli Embassy in Washington, believes that Bill Clinton will have to make some cut, even a token one, in the U.S. foreign aid budget. Amnon Neubach told our correspondent in Washington Arye Golan that in his opinion this cut will affect civilian aid to Israel but not security aid, since the United States understands that the peace process requires that Israel's security be maintained.

Beilin Rejects Reports of Promises to PLO

TA0711130092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 7 November 92

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin says that accusations leveled by Likud members to the effect that a Labor personage conferred with PLO members in Cairo and made them promises are nonsense. Talking to our correspondent Shlomo Raz, Deputy Minister Beilin denied that he had met with PLO members during his visits to Cairo, saying this is a witch-hunt organized by the Likud.

Earlier, Knesset Member [MK] David Mena' claimed that Yosi Beilin had visited Egypt with Nimrod Novik

several times before the elections and relayed messages to the PLO leadership. He told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that reliable sources informed him of Beilin's activity in Cairo. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 7 November reports that "the Likud demands that the prime minister disclose to the Knesset the identity of the senior Labor personage who left for Egypt before the elections, giving promises to PLO leaders there. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that in an urgent motion for the Knesset agenda MK Tzahi Hanegbi wants the prime minister to clarify all promises given the PLO in Egypt and whether that mission was with his knowledge and approval."]

U.S. Pressure Seen Necessary To Bring Peace

TA0911123392 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 Nov 92 p B1

[Commentary by Ran Kislev: "A Bit of Pressure, Please"]

[Text] To say that Saddam Husayn and Yitzhaq Shamir were the two people who celebrated George Bush's downfall sounds trite at this point. To tell the truth, Yitzhaq Shamir's personal reasons for rejoicing were better than even those of Saddam Husayn. Despite all his endeavors, Bush was unable to oust Saddam; he did displace Shamir.

The Likud in particular and the right wing in general appear to have no reason to like Bill Clinton and the bunch of people surrounding him. The sensitivity to minority rights, the meticulous insistence on human rights, the liberal approach to individual and social issues that characterize the Democratic Party in general and Clinton's group in particular—compared with the Republicans' right-wing conservatism—are too close to the outlook of the "bleeding hearts" loathed by the Israeli right wing. To all appearances, Clinton's election should have elated the Peace Now people, but they do not seem ecstatic.

It was naturally our right wing's hatred for George Bush and James Baker rather than a love of Bill Clinton and the Democrats that made it rejoice. And indeed, it has good reason.

With the exception of several instances of dictums designed to achieve specific goals (the pressure to discontinue the Jordan River diversion works in the 1950's; the demand to withdraw from Gaza in the wake of the Sinai campaign; and the Nixon-Kissinger "reassessment" in anticipation of the interim arrangements in 1974), George Bush was the first U.S. President to have used actual pressure on the Israeli Government as a tool for achieving objectives in the Middle East. This may have been the result of the outgoing President's crude character, but he was also motivated by his ardent ambition to show achievements after the Gulf war and to

display his ability to introduce "the new world order" he declared when the fighting in Iraq was over.

There is no doubt that Shamir and his government joined the Madrid conference and the ensuing political process only because of Bush's blatant pressure. Bush and Baker did not even take any particular care to camouflage the pressure, rendering not only the loan guarantees but also the very nature of U.S.-Israeli relations directly contingent on moves to promote the political process. This determination presented the Likud with an impossible dilemma: To hurt its holy of holies—the principle of the integrity of Greater Israel—or cause an open rift with the United States. The constantly growing rift was one of the primary reasons for the political upheaval in Israel.

It could be said that in this sense, George Bush did everything it took to get the Middle East peace process moving: He brought the Arab countries to the negotiating table with Israel, and he brought about the election of a more flexible Israeli Government, which replaced a government whose one and only goal had been to sabotage the process into which it had been coerced. Having done that, his task was completed. Having done his job, Bush became dispensable. Only this is not the way things work in our region or, perhaps, mainly in our country.

There is good reason for the delight of Gush Emunim and all other opponents of the peace process on the one hand and for the anxiety of its advocates on the other. Both know that if the United States persists in staying out of the process, the chances are that it will go down the drain in the not-too-distant future. We are not talking about a symbolic intervention on the part of an administration busy with its own domestic problems and perfunctorily handling regional conflicts but real involvement, similar to that of the Bush administration in its assertiveness and methods.

However disagreeable this may sound, Israel now needs an ample measure of U.S. pressure on all sides to promote the peace process. To put it more bluntly: Continued U.S. pressure on Israel is the most important condition for advancing the entire process.

Peace is a vital interest for Israel to advance its development and may even be a prerequisite for its survival in the distant future. Where the promotion of peace is concerned, the government established after the latest elections is the most accommodating that could be formed under the present circumstances but is not enough for the process to culminate successfully for Israel.

Everybody in Israel wants peace; the trouble is that there are many types of peace. "Peace with the Golan" is one example, and the Likud's "peace in exchange for peace" is another. Having said that, it is clear that no process—except for the coming of the messiah—can lead to such peace. Real peace can only be attained in exchange for territories and, what is more, in exchange for almost all the territories on the Golan Heights, the West Bank, and

the Gaza Strip—including the uprooting of settlements—as was the case in the Sinai and the Rafah approaches.

A government moving in such a direction will have to face tremendous domestic pressure, not only from the settlers, who are threatening civil war, or the Likud, which is ready to lead thousands to the streets, but pressure from within the government and Labor's lively hawkish camp. The government will need a counterpressure, not necessarily of the kind inherent in the empty threats of Peace Now. What is needed is pressure from a position of strength—that is, U.S. pressure.

Without this external pressure, which will be visible to all, Yitzhaq Rabin will probably be unable to withstand the internal pressures. After all, it is far easier to halt the process, particularly if one can put the blame on the other side.

The big question is: Will the Clinton administration be able to exert such pressure?

Polish Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit 8 Nov

TA0811055692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Polish Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski arrived in Israel last night for a three-day official visit. He is the first Polish foreign minister to visit Israel. He will have talks with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and will meet Prime Minister Rabin, President Herzog, and the speaker of the Knesset, Shevah Weiss. Skubiszewski will also deliver a lecture at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem on security problems in central Europe. [passage omitted]

Meets With Foreign Minister

TA0811190792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Text] Poland's Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski today began his official program in Israel with a visit to the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial. He also held talks with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and with Palestinian representatives. Peres and Skubiszewski agreed to increase bilateral economic and political cooperation. The visitor was asked by our reporter about recent opinion surveys in Poland which indicated that anti-Semitism is still wide spread.

[Begin Skubiszewski recording] Such views are absolutely marginal. You have extremist or strange views being expressed in practically any country, but they do not represent the main current of public opinion. On the contrary, there is much interest in Poland among the great majority of people in Jewish and Israeli culture and civilization and in Jewish life. This is represented by various manifestations in the field of arts and science and media, and I think that it bodes well for our relations in spite of some difficulties of the past. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Skubiszewski told our reporter Jack Katzenell Poland would support Israel's drive to gain acceptance to the WEO, Western Europe and Others regional group at the United Nations.

Foreign Minister Peres welcomed the visitor warmly, noting that he was the first Polish foreign minister to visit Israel. Peres was asked for his reaction to the statement by Faruq Qaddumi, the head of the PLO's political department, that the Palestinians would never accept self-rule as an interim settlement.

[Begin Peres recording] Look, nobody is doing a favor to the other party. The Palestinians must also decide if this is an opportunity, as we consider it as an opportunity. And, if they will depart from it, they will simply miss the opportunity. It's a threat to them, not to us. Well, clearly, before the negotiations started, the Palestinians were asked if they accept the basis for the negotiations, which is an interim agreement named autonomy and the reference to it was already mentioned in the Camp David agreement. And, if this is the position of anybody among the Palestinians, they should have never attended at all the negotiations. But, once they did attend, the basis for it is clear and agreed. [end recording]

Discusses Peacekeeping Role

TA0911124892 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 Nov 92 p A4

[ITIM report]

[Excerpt] Poland is prepared to dispatch an army contingent to a UN peacekeeping force in the Middle East, if and when such a force is set up. This observation was made by Polish Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski in a talk with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres yesterday in Jerusalem.

Both foreign ministers noted that the ties between the two countries are developing satisfactorily. The Polish minister suggested that the deputy foreign ministers or Foreign Ministry directors general of the two countries hold periodic meetings on prearranged dates. Peres accepted the proposal.

Skubiszewski further promised that his government will continue assisting the transit of CIS Jews to Israel.

The two foreign ministers agreed on upgrading the economic cooperation between their countries and on increasing the involvement of Israeli companies, together with their Polish counterparts, in the Polish economy. It was further agreed to enhance cooperation in the fields of agriculture, health, and banking, and to mutually encourage tourism. [passage omitted]

Confers With Herzog

LD0911234792 Warsaw PAP in English 2321 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Text] Tel Aviv, Nov. 9—Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski, currently on his visit to Israel, on Monday met with Israeli President Hayim Herzog to discuss situation in the Middle East and central Europe.

Minister Skubiszewski informed the Israeli president about preparations for celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the uprising in the Warsaw Jewish ghetto, to be observed in spring 1993.

Also on Monday, the foreign minister visited Hebrew university in Jerusalem.

Masked Men Murder Rafah Man; 7 Hurt by Gunfire

TA0711203492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Text] In Rafah today, masked men murdered 21-year-old Ahmad Isma'il. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine's Red Eagle squad declared that its members had shot the man to death in the center of the Shabura refugee camp, because he had cooperated with Israel.

Gaza Strip residents told our correspondent Moti Amir that seven people had been injured by rubber bullets today when the Army dispersed stone throwers in Khan Yunus, Jabalyah, and al-Burayj refugee camp. The injured were taken for treatment at hospitals in the Gaza Strip.

Leaflet Charges Hamas 'Harming' Palestinians

TA0911171892 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 Nov 92 A4

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin and ITIM]

[Excerpts] A leaflet sharply attacking Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] for harming the Palestinian public was disseminated in the territories by the "Popular Struggle Committees." The leaflet said that while the Palestinians require unity against the occupying force, "Hamas' despicable attacks are growing worse against law-abiding civilians who work to put bread into the mouths of their children—as is happening in Tulkarm, Nabulus, Hebron, and Jerusalem—and against professors who do everything they can to disseminate education among the Palestinian youth—as has occurred in Bethlehem and Nabulus. The imposition of frequent

strikes using force, threats, and terror against workers and poor farmers is a crime against the masses who are standing firm. We must know that Hamas leaders receive millions of dollars from certain countries whose only concern is the collapse of the only legitimate framework of the Palestinian people, the PLO."

The leaflet also said that the strike on 23 September at the demand of Hamas "was forced on the workers by coercion and threats and would not have taken place had the masses, workers, farmers, and merchants not wanted to prevent bloodletting and to direct the struggle against the Zionist enemy.

"The rise in Hamas' power, God help us, even if imaginary and not real, is a danger to all the forces of progress and Palestinian society in general, a danger that must be fought with all means possible. Hamas is getting carried away; it is arrogant, refusing to coordinate its activities with the other nationalist forces and acting against the unity of the workers. Do Hamas' leaders not understand that by ignoring the other streams fighting in the occupied land they are serving first and foremost the occupation forces and contributing to the division of the nation?

"We refused to believe that Hamas was behind the arrest of dozens of fighters belonging to the nationalist forces in general and the Popular Front Command specifically. We remained silent and did not respond to the messages and guidelines of Shaykh Ahmad Yasin from his prison cell, which aroused hatred and instigated against the nationalist movements and the progressive left.... Nevertheless, many questions crop up about the real reasons that the occupation authorities do not arrest Hamas people or even lay a finger on them on the West Bank and in Jerusalem but go out of their way to detain fighters from the nationalist movement.

"Hamas and all the enemies of freedom and democracy within and without must know that there is no substitute for the PLO as the legal and sole representative of the Palestinian people and that those who operate outside the PLO and claim to represent our people are merely misguided provocateurs." [passage omitted]

It was also reported that a firebomb was thrown yesterday afternoon in the village of Idnah in the Hebron area at a Border Police patrol. The firebomb hit the vehicle, exploded, and caught fire. There were no casualties or damage. The Army imposed a curfew on the village.

For the first time in several months, Jerusalem Police yesterday closed an East Jerusalem school. A firebomb and stones were hurled yesterday from a school in the Old City.

Verdict in Islamic Youth Organization Rendered**Shubaylat, Qirrish Get 20 Years***JN1011122692 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 10 Nov 92*

[Text] A State Security Court this morning convicted the two main defendants involved in the Movement of the Shabab al-Nafir al-Islami [the Islamic Youth Mobilization Organization] on charges of belonging to an illegal organization aimed at toppling the regime and of possession of unlicensed arms and explosives. The court sentenced each of Layth Shubaylat and Ya'qub Qirrish to a 20-year jail term each after commuting the death sentence passed on them.

The State Security Court also sentenced the two other defendants in the case to a 10-year jail term for each after commuting the death sentence passed on the two.

The State Security Court said that the death sentences were commuted to a 20-year jail term for Shubaylat and Qirrish because the two had no criminal precedence and because the weapons and explosives in their possession were discovered before they could use them. And, in the case of the two other defendants, their death sentence was commuted to a 10-year prison term because they regretted what they had done and facilitated the work of the court.

The State Security Court decided to discard the testimony of the witness who earlier testified in a secret session held by the court against defendant Layth Shubaylat.

King Expected To Intervene*LD1011104592 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0841 GMT 10 Nov 92*

[Text] Amman, 10 Nov (KUNA)—The Jordanian State Security Court will today issue its verdict in the case of the Islamic Mobilization Youth [Shabab al-afir al-Islami] and Layth Shubaylat and Ya'qub Qirrish, two members of the Jordanian Parliament. The case is one of the most serious in Jordan in terms of its effect on public opinion. The Jordanian authorities have taken rigorous security measures including the closure of all the main roads leading to the court venue.

Tension between the executive and legislative powers in Jordan has mounted in the past few days. The Islamic trend in the Jordanian parliament has issued a statement denouncing the government's measures in trying the two deputies, while a delegation representing the parliamentary public freedoms committee and the vocational trade unions met more than once with the Jordanian prime minister in the past 10 days but nothing was announced about what had taken place during these meetings. Today's court verdict will have serious repercussions in the Jordanian arena and could lead to a new explosion in the situation.

The two deputies, who belong to the fundamentalist Islamic trend, were arrested toward the end of last August on the charge of patronizing an organization that calls itself the Islamic Mobilization Youth. The trial of the two deputies was held during the parliament's recess because the deputies do not enjoy parliamentary immunity during recesses.

A royal decree was issued recently postponing the opening of the parliamentary session, which was scheduled for last month, October, until next month, December, to enable the court to try the two deputies and issue its verdict before the parliament reconvenes.

Observers expect King Husayn to intervene in the case after the court has issued its verdict so as to put an end to it because under the Constitution, the king cannot issue pardons or commute sentences until after the court has issued its verdict.

Prime Minister Receives IAEA Director 10 Nov*JN1011134592 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 10 Nov 92*

[Text] The Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir received in his office today Dr. Hans Blix, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the IAEA.

During the meeting, they discussed ways of implementing the resolutions of the IAEA general conference that aim to establish a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East. Dr. Blix expressed the IAEA's appreciation for Jordan's attitudes towards atomic energy uses.

The meeting was attended by Mr. 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib, the minister of energy and mineral resources.

Al-Hariri Presents Government Policy Statement
*NC0911165292 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1422
GMT 9 Nov 92*

[Government policy statement read by Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri during a general Chamber of Deputies session in Beirut on 9 November—live]

[Text] Your Excellency the Speaker, Esteemed Deputies: If the government standing in front of you today represents new hopes for the Lebanese, your noble Chamber embodies the hopes for advancing the march of democracy at this extraordinary stage in Lebanon's history. The government, therefore, believes that this Chamber will play its full role based on the spirit of the Constitution and on solidarity, cooperation, and balance among the different authorities. This role should aspire for a new political life emanating from the accord among the Lebanese and from a genuine and firm reconciliation between the citizen and his state. It is high time for us to achieve this reconciliation and make it a national foundation on which our coming generations lean while taking their steps toward the future.

Esteemed Deputies, the government that is presenting its statement to your noble Chamber today hopes, through your support and cooperation, to realize our people's objectives of liberation, reform, and development. It stands before you under a big banner—confidence. It is primarily the confidence of the Lebanese in himself and his ability to achieve a great deal under the hardest of circumstances. It is the confidence of the Lebanese in the future of his country and the restoration of its creative role within its Arab region and the world. It is the citizen's renewed confidence in his state, and the confidence of others—brothers and friends—in our ability to save Lebanon and develop its people and institutions.

This confidence is necessary for the success of a government that designates itself to perform future national missions—a government that puts on its list of priorities the liberation of the land from the occupation, the liberation of the state from the aftermath of the war, the liberation of the administration from corruption, and the liberation of the citizen from the remaining disorder. We will proceed from this confidence, and through it we will cooperate to serve Lebanon. We believe that the way to restore confidence in a just, able, and responsible state lies in renewed trust in the national accord process and in rectifying any attempt to deviate from this course or divert it from its clear political facts.

Proceeding from this, the government expresses its determination to abide by the text and spirit of the national accord charter. In cooperation with your noble Chamber, the government undertakes to pursue the contents of the charter with a view toward building the Lebanon we all seek—a country of peace, freedom, justice, and accord; a country strong through the unity of its sons and relations with and support of its brothers.

Esteemed Deputies, the continued Israeli occupation of part of the Lebanese territory and the continuing Israeli acts of aggression against our peaceful people remain at the top of government concerns. We consider the liberation of the homeland's territory as a priority within our national and political objectives. The government sticks to the right of the Lebanese state and people to confront the Israeli occupation and to work to liberate Lebanese territory by all means pursuant to the UN Charter and human rights conventions.

The government appreciates the role the UN Interim Force in Lebanon is playing. The government will continue with all determination to demand that Resolution 425 be implemented. It will endeavor to consolidate its sovereignty over all its territory and to complete deployment of the Lebanese Army up to internationally recognized borders. The government also will work to beef up the steadfastness of our kinsfolk in the south and western al-Biqā'. The government will work to ensure the release of all the prisoners and detainees held in the enemy's and agents' prisons.

The government, in cooperation with the Arab brothers, also will work to confront the Israeli intransigence in refusing to implement the UN resolutions or acknowledge the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. The government does not need to announce on this occasion—now that this has become part of Lebanon's Constitution—that it will not accept any kind of settlement [of Palestinians] on Lebanese territory.

Esteemed Deputies, the historical roots of the relations between Lebanon and Syria and the profound fraternal ties and common interests between them concern our two countries alone. These relations will remain safeguarded and outside any foreign whims, interests, and interference. These relations must represent a source of strength for each country.

In this regard, the government will endeavor to implement the Treaty of Cooperation and Coordination signed between the two countries through the institutions as stipulated in the treaty's provisions. Syria's stand on Lebanon and its support for Lebanon's national unity, independence, and sovereignty, and Syria's role in restoring peace and security and in achieving national accord reiterate the importance of efforts to continue the consolidation of these distinguished relations.

As for foreign policy, the government, inspired by the relations that link Lebanon to its Arab brothers, will determinedly defend Arab rights, foremost being the Palestinian people's cause. The government will abide fully by Arab solidarity concerning regional and international stands. Accordingly, the government is determined to bolster Lebanon's presence in the various international organizations, institutions, and agencies. This would ensure the effective participation with which Lebanon always has been characterized and which constitutes a continuation of its open-minded culture and its

commitment to the legitimacy of human rights, the UN and Arab League Charters, and UN resolutions.

The government will work to strengthen the ties between the homeland and the Lebanese in diaspora to increase the Lebanese presence and role in the world, encourage the expatriates' ties with the homeland, and protect their interests and organize their representational establishments. This calls for creating a ministry for this purpose, the list of priorities for which will focus, in addition to expatriate issues, on attracting the energies of the Lebanese abroad and encouraging emigrants to return to take part in the national development process.

Esteemed Deputies, the evacuees issue has concerned the state since the halt of war and the start of the peace process. The national accord charter stipulated the need for all evacuees to return to all areas. Previous governments made strides in paving the way for this step, and this prompts us to reiterate the political decision made on the return of evacuees to their homes.

Putting this decision into practical effect and expediting its implementation are among the most prominent duties of our government. Toward that end, the government has decided to establish a special ministry for displaced people and to provide it with the necessary administrative and financial resources. This is because this problem is no longer a question of a political decision or a suitable security atmosphere, but a socio-economic issue. For this reason, the government will work to mobilize efforts, both at home and abroad, toward securing the financial aid needed for the displaced people and to help them return home. This is out of a desire to consolidate the will of coexistence among the Lebanese and to heal the last psychological and physical wounds of the war.

A state of law is a guarantee for public freedoms and a key to peace, development, and reconstruction. Toward that end and to complete the comprehensive security plan that seeks to extend the state's authority over all Lebanese territories—thus safeguarding the homeland's sovereignty and independence—the government, now that the unity of the Armed Forces has been restored, will work toward consolidating, developing, and equipping our national Army and all the security forces so they can implement the missions assigned to them.

As for the judiciary, it is one of three authorities stipulated under the Constitution. When its work is organized, everyone, both officials and citizens, will be governed by the rule of law and the Lebanese citizens' basic rights outlined in the Constitution will be safeguarded. This calls for speeding up the establishment of the Constitutional Council. The government will tackle the judiciary's affairs proceeding from this perspective. It emphasizes its eagerness to ensure the judiciary's enhanced role and independence and will endeavor to fill all the vacant judicial positions with efficient people to ensure the due course of justice. The government will

provide sufficient means for judges to lead a proper life that suits the kind of duty they assume.

Regarding administration, we need not reiterate the role it plays in the development and progress of society and in economic development, considering the numerous and diverse burdens placed on the modern state. The government fully realizes that the long years of war and its results, in terms of the disappearance of means of control and the spread of corruption, have left their mark on the bureaucracy in Lebanon, which is lagging behind and needs training, rehabilitation, and modernization. The government, in line with the national accord document and out of its desire to maintain a strong central authority, intends to broaden the powers of governors and have all the state's institutions represented at the highest possible level in all administrative regions, thus facilitating services for citizens, responding to their needs locally, and encouraging them to remain in their towns and villages. Toward this end, the government will create a new ministry for municipal and rural affairs. Attaining administrative reform requires lifting the immunity of all employees working in the public sector and public institutions for a certain time and adopting the policy of reward and punishment, so that the diligent employee may be duly rewarded and the corrupt employee excluded. This necessitates activating and rejuvenating the role of the Auditing Bureau, the Public Service Council, the Central Inspection Bureau, the Public Disciplinary Council, and all other control boards. The administration is the executive arm of the state, and the government is aware of the importance of the role required to be played by the administration. It also is aware of the need to supply it with modern means of technology, introduce the necessary reforms therein, and care for the affairs of its employees so it can attract qualified personnel at all levels and in all sectors.

Administrative reform in Lebanon has additional importance at this time because bolstering the state's credibility at home and abroad hinges to a large extent on the success of this reform. It also will promote investments in Lebanon and make it easier to obtain foreign aid and loans when needed.

Esteemed deputies: A modern state, regardless of its political system, maintains that one of its foremost tasks is to secure employment for its citizens on an equal opportunity basis, guarantee educational opportunities for everyone, preserve public health, raise living standards by increasing national revenue, and generally make plans for the future and adopt safeguards to spare society any likely crises.

In view of the fact that health care costs have become a burden on citizens, the government is determined to install a modern and accurately supervised health system, provide backing for primary medical services, enhance preventive medicine measures, and upgrade government and private hospital care.

On the same basis, the government regards upgrading education and making it available to all as a national necessity to produce a new enlightened generation that is loyal to the homeland. The government will show prompt and special attention to the issues of state schools, school fees, and other educational costs. To demonstrate the importance it attaches to the national universities and cultural affairs and its desire to keep Lebanon a beacon of culture, art, and learning and a center of scientific research, the government will create a Ministry of Culture and Higher Education. In light of the importance of vocational and technical education to society's cultural, economic, and production needs, and the fact that it affects the future of the majority of our students, the government will create a special ministry for vocational and technical education.

The government does not need to emphasize its concern for modernizing the country's devastated infrastructure. It will begin by improving electricity and water services, build interstate roads, repair existing highways and build new ones, and develop telecommunications with the use of sophisticated technology. Without advanced telecommunications, Lebanon cannot hope to restore its former role as a regional business center.

In addition, the government will give the housing issue all the attention made necessary by the acute housing problems that the citizens, particularly young people, suffer.

The government will give special attention to develop the industrial and agricultural sectors by encouraging national production, searching for new markets for Lebanese exports, implementing an agricultural timetable, adopting a policy of rural growth, and developing all industrial activities.

Following the restoration of security and stability in the country, the government holds that tourism must be revived and that Lebanon must restore its past role in this regard. This, however, requires the renovation and rehabilitation of war-damaged tourist facilities and the encouragement of investments in tourism. It also requires that we attach due care to environmental and pollution affairs. The government will create an Environment Ministry to deal with these important issues.

The government will develop and equip domestic and external transport facilities, including airports and ports, and create a Transport Ministry. I stress that the establishment of these ministries—most offices and employees of which will come from existing ministries—will not result in great burdens on the state budget.

Finally, the government is determined to strengthen the national media, ensure that it covers all areas of Lebanon, and protect public freedom and press freedom in particular by reorganizing the Information Ministry administratively and technically and by enacting the laws that regulate all other media organs in a way that serves our democratic tradition, our moral values, the peace process, and the homeland's supreme interests.

Esteemed Deputies, while the political and security tasks and the goals of liberation and reform require you and us to mobilize our efforts and our full resources, the Lebanese people are expecting this government to present a plan for economic and social salvation. Lebanon's enemies and those lying in wait for its peace and security are wagering on the collapse of our economic strength and the deterioration in our social conditions so as to dash hopes, spread despair, strike at the people's unity, and destroy steadfastness and solidarity. Economic revival that supports liberation, protect independence, and defend democracy is a priority for this government, which declares, as of today, a war on inflation, exploitation, and illegal speculation aimed at damaging the national currency. It will work to stabilize the national currency's rate of exchange, control the deficit in the public budget, revive the economic cycle, and give impetus to the development and reconstruction cycle in order to achieve social security and economic prosperity.

Esteemed Deputies, the socioeconomic problem facing Lebanon today has two inter-linked aspects: construction and development. In this respect, we would like to stress the following three principles:

1. The consolidation of the free economic system, through which we will act to solve our economic problems as part of the process of rebuilding the state on sound bases. It should remain clear that reconstruction is a constant and comprehensive process. Many aspects of this process are fraught with difficulties and require the solidarity of everyone's efforts, strengths, and sacrifices. At this critical stage, the state will set the example for the citizen by rationalizing expenditures and desisting from futile expenses.

2. Construction and development will not be achieved in a serious and fair way unless we identify accurately and scientifically the extent and types of problems facing them and hence the effective solutions. Therefore, construction and development work will be based on accurate field information, the correct scientific planning, and on a clear policy that takes into consideration protecting traditions in all Lebanese areas.

3. Speeding up reconstruction absolutely does not mean neglecting the balanced and long-term development objectives. Therefore, the government will draw up a socioeconomic concept based on the free economy system, which will be the starting point for attaining a productive society.

Construction of the infrastructure and the creation of a sound socioeconomic basis are the first step and will define the start and course of development in the future. Therefore, some priorities for this government are to start the construction process in a serious manner and on a large-scale basis, to speed up the implementation of projects, and to raise everyday services to the required standard in the shortest possible time so that they will improve the citizens' standards of living.

On tackling the economic and financial aspect of the problem, one of the most prominent priorities of this government is combating inflation and monopolies, stabilizing the Lebanese pound's rate of exchange, and restoring confidence in the national currency. This will push the economic activity cycle toward advanced levels and will have a positive effect with the needed speed on the income of individuals and families in Lebanon.

It goes without saying that making up the deficit in the state budget will not be accomplished unless expenditures are controlled and revenues increased, while taking into consideration the effect of the deficit on commercial activity. Controlling expenditures also will be achieved through a close examination of expenditures in detail so that what can be canceled is dropped without infringing on the state's duties to its citizens. Increasing revenues will be achieved by improving the effective collection of taxes and the levy of all customs duties, especially income taxes, customs, taxes on the sale of estate properties, taxes on operating publicly owned services, and by collecting dues from public services such as water, telephones, electricity, and etc. It also will be achieved by developing the departments in charge of supervision and control in order to protect the state's dues and the collection of its revenues.

The government will develop the taxation system on the basis of social and economic criteria that will make this system more fair socially and more in line with the requirements of economic revival, reconstruction, encouragement of Lebanese and Arab investments, and speeding up the development cycle.

With regard to the social aspect of the problem, the government will focus abundant attention on it because its importance equals that of the economic aspect. The ill-fated war that swept over Lebanon left behind it several social problems. There are tens of thousands of youth who have not the opportunity to join the society of peace in an effective way. There also are thousands of handicapped people and the state has a duty to rehabilitate and protect them and to create for them conditions for a productive and dignified life. This compels us to create a Ministry for Social Affairs.

Esteemed Deputies, we are entering a phase that requires us all to exert constant efforts and rapid action. The needs are great and urgent and they do not forgive or wait.

The government will submit to your esteemed Chamber very soon draft laws that aim at achieving and implementing the following:

1. Planning for the comprehensive economic revival of all Lebanese areas and in all sectors. This plan has been prepared by the Development and Reconstruction Council in cooperation with the World Bank and other

international institutions. It includes the issues of construction; housing; the affairs of displaced people; supplying equipment to the civil departments, public establishments, hospitals, and schools; and modernizing and rebuilding the infrastructure and obtaining loans for this purpose when necessary.

2. Boosting the Armed Forces, equipping the military and security departments, and obtaining loans for this purpose when necessary.

3. Organizing public departments, creating ministries, attaching public institutions to state departments, and establishing, merging, or abolishing independent funds.

4. Organizing public amenities, modernizing the methods by which they are run and operated, and establishing joint ownership companies.

The government believes it is necessary to reconsider some laws including the Citizenship Law, the Municipalities Law, the Administrative Organization Law, the Civil Organization Law, and the laws governing building, tourism, property, rent and lease activities, public institutions, public sector employees and workers, and the lifting of the immunity of such employees and workers, taxes, customs, currency, loans, banks, agricultural loans, the stock exchange, and social security.

The government will promptly refer the important bills on the abovementioned issues to the Chamber of Deputies. It hopes that the esteemed Chamber will show responsiveness and decide promptly on these bills so that the government can fulfill its obligations.

Esteemed deputies, our homeland has endured much pain, surmounted many ordeals. Now it has the opportunity to reassert its role in its Arab milieu and the world. This opportunity is not a dream plan; it is a realistic plan that reflects the true nature of the Lebanese people as a nation, in the depth of whose heart the will to change and progress has not died. We are nominating ourselves to cooperate with you to fulfill the great Lebanese dream of liberation; sovereignty; building a strong, capable state on modern, scientific lines; achieving economic and social revival; and eliminating the humiliating effects of successive wars. We are fully aware of the deteriorating conditions caused by the war in various Lebanese spheres. We also are aware of the obstacles that our mission faces. We are wagering on our ability to surmount these obstacles with the assistance of the esteemed Chamber of Deputies and in constant cooperation with it.

We are embarking on an arduous but far from impossible task if the Lebanese people join their efforts and capabilities to support and protect it and regard it as a national mission that concerns everyone without exception.

This government is for all the Lebanese, just as the Chamber of Deputies is for all the Lebanese. Our goal is the goal of each of you, of every Lebanese citizen who

suffered from the war and its aftereffects and is waging on turning the war into a relic to which we will never return.

This is our government's policy, and these are the objectives which we will seek to achieve in close cooperation with your esteemed Chamber. We are here with you for the homeland's future, to serve the people, to build the state. It must be a state that is more important than any one individual, but that safeguards everyone's rights, and fulfills everyone's aspirations. It must be a state that enjoys the Lebanese people's trust, solidarity, unity, and efficiency—a state that seeks to harmonize Lebanon with its future. On this basis we submit our government to your esteemed Chamber and ask for your cherished confidence. We are confident that in cooperation with you, we will restore trust in Lebanon. Long may you live. Long live Lebanon. [applause]

Al-Hirawi Lists 'Priorities' for National Effort

NC0811121792 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi said today that the war in Lebanon is over, but the war for Lebanon is not. He called on the Lebanese to work hard to get the homeland on its feet again. Disease is infectious, as is health, he said.

The homeland needs the efforts of all, al-Hirawi said at a ceremony marking the first anniversary of the bombing of the College Hall of the American University of Beirut.

He said that the state is focusing on three priorities for national salvation:

The first priority, he said, is to close ranks to serve the country. It is the responsibility of all Lebanese, he stated, to help consolidate the state's sovereignty, to rehabilitate social services, and to stimulate construction.

The second priority is economic salvation. Al-Hirawi said that a weak economy could endanger the home front. Lebanon, which has stood up to foreign perils, will succeed in resolving its domestic problems, he stated.

The third priority, al-Hirawi said, is to move steadily toward the liberation of the occupied parts of the south and western al-Biq'a' through the prompt implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425.

Buwayz Discusses South Situation, Israeli Talks

NC0911182292 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has revealed that U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker contacted him at 0300 today within the framework of the U.S. effort to halt the deterioration of the situation in the south. He said that Crocker briefed him on Washington's efforts in this regard. He added:

[Begin Buwayz recording] The U.S. ambassador contacted me at 0300 today and briefed me on U.S. efforts to help control the situation in the south. We believe that no Israeli attack can be justified as long as Israel is occupying Lebanon's territory. [end recording]

On the peace negotiations, Buwayz said:

[Begin Buwayz recording] No progress can be achieved if Israel does not recognize the principle of a comprehensive and complete withdrawal and create a timetable for this withdrawal and follow it. This could give the Lebanese-Israeli talks the required seriousness.

Concerning the other talks on Arab issues, Lebanon is committed to Arab solidarity on the basis of its view of these issues. It believes that a just and especially a comprehensive peace alone can guarantee stability in this part of the world. The attempts to isolate some parties so far have shown that they might succeed in fragmenting [Arab] ranks, but they will not succeed in establishing serious peace. Hence, the peace decision is either a comprehensive and total one, or not. [end recording]

Israeli Ground, Air Activity Continues in South

NC1011095092 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] Recent arrivals from the occupied border area this morning report that heavy Israeli mechanized movements have been monitored in the past 24 hours on various places near Marj 'Uyun and Hasbayya and roads leading to the Jazzin area and the hills overlooking al-Nabatiyah, opposite western al-Biq'a' and Iqlim al-Tuffah. In addition, they report continuous overflights by Israeli warplanes and helicopters. Israeli aircraft dropped scores of flares over the area throughout the night last night.

Security sources said that at 0100 today, Israeli artillery shelled Majdal Silm, Shaqra, and al-Sultaniyah, causing heavy material damage.

According to recent reports, this morning the Agent Lahd militia set up a checkpoint on the Arnun-Yuhmur-al-Shaqif road, closely checked vehicles and people, and detained Lebanese Army Sergeant Najib Sa'b, taking him to al-Khiyam prison. The checkpoint was removed after two hours.

Hizballah Attacks Israeli Patrol

NC1011095592 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0918 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Excerpts] Just in from the editor's desk: The Islamic Resistance announced a short time ago that it carried out an operation against an Israeli patrol travelling on the Kafr Hunah road in Jazzin at 1000 today. The Islamic Resistance said that a clash occurred with the patrol but provided no further details. Israeli artillery emplaced in the Kafr Hunah and al-Ahmadiyah hills launched a

concentrated bombardment of the towns of Mashgharah and 'Ayn al-Tinah, where Hizballah positions are located.

In Western al-Biqa', the Lebanese Army is returning fire against the sources of fire that targeted Mashgharah and 'Ayn al-Tinah.

Our correspondent in al-Nabatiyah reports that Iqlim al-Tuffah, particularly the Mlita, al-Luwayzah, and Jabal Safi Hills have been under concentrated Israeli military barrage since 1055 today. [passage omitted]

Israeli reinforcements were brought to Marj 'Uyun and al-Khiyam areas today.

Hizballah Reportedly Sends Fighters to Bosnia

NC0911182892 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715
GMT 9 Nov 92

[Text] REUTER has cited Islamic sources in Lebanon as saying that Hizballah and the Islamic Unification Movement have sent more than 50 fighters to Bosnia-Herzegovina in the past few weeks to train the Muslims forces fighting there and that more fighters soon will be sent there.

The sources said that most of these fighters left from Tripoli Port without weapons.

Hizballah has not reacted to this report.

Khaddam Rules Out al-Asad-Rabin Meeting

JN1011065192 *Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic* 0600 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam has ruled out a Syrian-Israeli summit between President Hafiz al-Asad and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Khaddam told the magazine AL-MAJALLAH that this issue is totally out of the question and deserves no comment.

Responding to Palestinian fears that Damascus might sign a separate peace treaty with Israel, Khaddam emphasized that reaching a just and comprehensive peace is one of the constants of the Syrian strategy in the current peace talks.

Regarding the redeployment of the Syrian Army in eastern Lebanon in accordance with the al-Ta'if accords, Khaddam said that this issue should be discussed with the Lebanese authorities in order to avoid a new Bosnia in Lebanon and the eruption of a new war there once Syria has withdrawn.

Khaddam Discusses Army Redeployment in Lebanon

NC1011081292 (*Clandestine*) *Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic* 0545 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam has said that the Syrian Army's redeployment to eastern Lebanon in accordance with the al-Ta'if Accord must be discussed with Lebanese authorities so as to prevent the creation of a new Bosnia in Lebanon and a new breakout of war.

Responding to a question from AL-MAJALLAH magazine on the Palestinian fear that Syria and Israel will reach a separate peace agreement, Khaddam said that his country pursues a firm policy and has clear strategy based on the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Dailies Comment on Peace Talks, U.S. Leadership

JN1011110292 *Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic* 0545 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-BA'TH today editorializes on the peace talks, saying: The second phase of the seventh round of Middle East peace talks has been resumed under circumstances that do not give rise to any hope of making progress in the peace process, which was launched more than a year ago.

AL-BA'TH adds: Even though the peace process is not linked to the person of the elected president, because it remains a basic part of the U.S. foreign policy, the period of handing over power to the administration of the president-elect, which is called the transitional phase,

will not influence the progress of the peace talks, because the old and new White House administrations will be preoccupied with arranging files and agendas, most of which will concern domestic issues.

AL-BA'TH goes on to say: Amidst these circumstances, Israel is once again attempting to evade the requirements of international legitimacy and UN resolutions through repeating the old talk of partial solutions and what it calls bilateral or separate agreements with Arab parties. This renewed talk of partial solutions has coincided with an escalation of attacks on southern Lebanon and also with stepped-up acts of repression and terrorism in the occupied territories to pressure Lebanon and the Palestinian side into accepting separate solutions, nursing the delusion that the circumstances currently surrounding the peace process provide a propitious opportunity for forcing acceptance of its theories, which are unacceptable in terms of methods, statements, form, and content.

The paper continues: The Arab sides, which affirmed their adherence to a comprehensive solution during their coordination meetings and constant consultations, cling to their positions, which are based on the premise that rights should not be conceded and that capitulation and surrender must remain out of the question under all circumstances.

Concluding its editorial, AL-BA'TH says: The Arab sides have affirmed their adherence to a comprehensive solution, just as they asserted their desire to see the peace process continue and to see international legitimacy upheld.

Regarding the newspaper AL-THAWRAH, it says: Undoubtedly, the peace talks will race against time during their second year. Israel, which has been pursuing a policy of procrastination in a bid to buy time in seven rounds of talks, will use the time factor to prolong them pending until a clear picture emerges of the new U.S. Administration, which Israel believes will be pro-Israel.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The statements Clinton has made since his election victory on Wednesday show a desire to maintain continuity, a commitment to the principles governing U.S. foreign policy, and a determination that Washington will continue to shoulder its responsibilities toward the peace process, particularly since this is extremely important to vital U.S. interests in the Middle East.

Also commenting on the changes in Washington and their repercussions in the region, TISHRIN newspaper says: Now that the U.S. presidential race has ended and the media commotion has ebbed, the signs of another battle, led by Zionist organizations, has begun to loom on the U.S. horizon. This battle is over the control of decisionmaking centers in the new administration. The Zionists are currently making frenzied efforts to convince President-Elect Bill Clinton that it was they who made it possible for him to become president and toppled the Bush administration. The Zionist lobby is currently promoting a number of theories, foremost

among which is that it was the Jewish vote that enabled the Democratic Party's presidential candidate to succeed, that the donations collected by Jewish organizations helped Clinton organize an effective election campaign, and that the Zionized U.S. media made the new U.S. president.

TISHRIN adds: We do not deny that the Zionists wield immense influence in the United States and elsewhere. However, Zionist influence in the United States is nothing new, nor a passing phenomenon. The Jewish lobby does not put all its eggs in the basket of a single U.S. party. Indeed, it endeavors to maintain a presence within all parties.

The paper continues: Clinton has won the trust of the U.S. people, because he stands for renewal and change. If it were to be true to its promises, the change to be brought about by the new U.S. Administration must affect all areas, including ties with Israel.

TISHRIN goes on to say: Now that the cold war is over, it is no longer valid to say that whatever is good for Israel is bound to be good for the United States. As for the Arabs, they are required now to mobilize their political and media resources to explain facts to the American people and to the new U.S. leadership as well.

Concluding its editorial, TISHRIN says: Israel has managed to use world changes to its advantage, because the Arabs failed to wield their influence. At present, it is hoped that the Arabs will not once again allow Israel to use the change recently witnessed in the United States to its advantage.

Commentary Warns Arabs Against Separate Deals

JN0911170092 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] The seventh round of the peace talks, which was postponed until the results of the U.S. presidential elections came out, will resume today in Washington.

Before the meetings start, Rabin's government announced that its negotiating team is not carrying anything new, and that it does not expect tangible results before the inauguration of the new U.S. president, Bill Clinton. Meanwhile, a senior Israeli intelligence official stated that the problem with the Syrians is that they insist on complete Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and reject separate settlements.

In truth, Rabin's government, despite its claims on accepting Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, is still refusing to tackle the fundamental issues of the Arab-Israeli conflict, particularly withdrawal from the occupied territories and acknowledging Palestinian

rights. Rabin's government is also still attempting to infiltrate the Arab ranks and make separate, partial deals, which would undoubtedly lead to deflecting the Washington talks from their course, framework, and objectives.

Rabin's government believes that scattering the ranks of the Arab negotiating teams will annul the equation of land for peace and avert international pressures to implement Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 with all their provisions.

Rabin's government maneuvers to gain time in the hope that the Zionist lobby in the United States will be able to dissuade the next U.S. Administration from following the line set by Bush Administration in terms of opposing settlement activities as an obstacle to peace, or calling for a just and comprehensive settlement on all fronts of the conflict.

Despite the fact that Bush's government has affirmed its commitment to a comprehensive settlement, current transitional conditions in the United States prevent it from playing the required role. Therefore, the Arab states involved in the talks have no alternative but to coordinate their positions in order to reach a common view, a common position, and a common strategy. Adherence to the basis for the solution, adopted in the Damascus and Amman meetings, is the best and most appropriate way to face Israel's maneuvers and attempts to divide Arab ranks and deflect Washington talks from their course, framework, and objectives.

Needless to say, falling into the Israeli trap of separate deals and settlements will inflict great harm on the Arab cause and will not profit any of the Arab parties. Instead, the Zionist lobby will use such a fall to push President Clinton's administration to fall back on the commitments and affirmations made by Bush's government regarding the comprehensiveness of the solution and embracing the resolutions of international legitimacy and the principle of land for peace as the basis for the desired settlement.

Therefore, it is, more than ever before, vitally important to bring about a unified Arab position adhering to international legitimacy and the comprehensive nature of the solution that is based on applying the UN resolutions and the principle of land for peace to face the Israeli intransigence and maneuvers with a united stand and the basic pan-Arab principles. The Arabs are strong with their unity and no power on earth can deflect the peace process from its course and objectives if the Arabs remain united, especially since they are armed with the resolutions of international legitimacy. These resolutions call on Israel to make a complete withdrawal and acknowledge the Palestinian people's rights. They, also, clearly and unequivocally annul all Israeli measures to annex Jerusalem and the Golan Heights and consider settlement activities a flagrant violation of international peace and an antithesis to peace.

Afghanistan

Commentary on U.S. Election Stresses Ties

LD0811220192 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] During the past few days we have observed the presidential election in the United States. In the election for the 42d President of the United States, the reins of state affairs have, after 12 years, passed into the hands of the Democrats. Bill Clinton, the Democratic Party's candidate, gained victory against his rivals. [passage omitted]

The Islamic State of Afghanistan, which has a long tradition of friendship and good relations with the United States, has welcomed Bill Clinton's election victory. It hopes that the existing friendship and good relations will further expand and deepen in economic, social, political, and other fields through mutual aid and cooperation. Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, chairman of the Leadership Council and president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, in his message of congratulations to President-Elect Bill Clinton, expressing that hope, noted that the people of Afghanistan attach much importance to their traditional friendship with the United States. Historically the United States has had good relations with Afghanistan. During the 14-year period of the legitimate jihad of the mojahed nation of Afghanistan against the former Soviet Union, especially, it gave us unforgettable political and economic assistance. Our Muslim compatriots hope that the new leadership of the United States will not, any more than it did during the 14-year jihad, spare its material and moral aid in the great job of the reconstruction of Afghanistan, now that it has established its identity as [words indistinct] as a result of the Islamic Revolution, and they ask for practical steps to be taken by the U.S. Government in this respect.

Iranian Foreign Minister Visits Kabul

Rabbani, Velayati Discuss Ties

LD0911152492 Tehran IRNA in English 1338 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 9, IRNA—President of the interim government of Afghanistan Borhannodin Rabbani here Monday underlined the powerful role Iran plays in regional and international equations and announced his country's full readiness for joint cooperation at regional and international levels.

Rabbani made the remark in a meeting with the visiting high-ranking Iranian delegation, headed by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati who arrived here today.

Velayati and his entourage were greeted at the airport by Afghan Foreign Minister Seyyed Soleymán Gayláni and

a number of top officials. This is Velayati's first visit to Afghanistan after the victory of the Afghan Muslim Mojahedin.

Rabbani stressed Kabul's interest in further expansion of bilateral diplomatic, cultural, economic, scientific and educational relations.

He pointed to the letters of understanding already signed between Tehran and Kabul and said their implementation would further expand mutual ties.

Stressing that the post-revolution problems were no less than those of the pre-revolution era, Rabbani expressed hope that Iran would assist Afghan people as it did during their fight against occupiers.

He also hoped that Velayati's visit to Afghanistan would bear effective results for the two neighbouring Muslim countries.

Velayati announced Iran's readiness to help Afghan Muslims and said that enforcement of the agreements and formation of a joint commission between the two countries would pave the ground for further cooperation.

Pointing to areas for joint Tehran-Kabul cooperation at regional and international levels, he called for a more active role by the two countries in support of the Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina at the forthcoming Jeddah session of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC).

The Iranian foreign minister in a separate meeting with his Afghan counterpart, Gayláni, underscored Iran's humanitarian objectives in rendering assistance to the Muslim refugees of neighbouring countries, Afghans in particular, and assured perpetuation of the policy.

He underlined establishment of peace, stability and tranquility in Afghanistan as the only means to guarantee development and reconstruction of Afghanistan.

Velayati pointed to common religious, cultural and lingual interests between the two countries and urged further expansion of bilateral cooperation, especially in cultural, scientific and educational fields as well as in regional and international areas, including the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and the OIC.

Gayláni lauded Iran's services rendered to over two million Afghan refugees in the past 14 years and expressed hope that relations between the two neighbours would be expanded.

He called on Iran to support Kabul's membership in ECO, which was welcomed by Velayati.

Velayati, pointing to the ongoing massacre of the Bosnian Muslims and Iran's humanitarian assistance in this respect, called for a decisive measure by Muslim countries in this connection.

Gaylani also condemned crimes of the Serbs and called for a joint action by Muslim states to put an end to the bloodshed.

Velayati on Afghan ECO Membership

LD0911175192 Tehran IRNA in English 1655 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 9, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati announced here today that Afghanistan will soon be admitted to the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

He told a press conference that Afghanistan will participate in the forthcoming meeting of the ECO foreign ministers in Islamabad.

Afghanistan's entry to the ECO would further cooperation among member states, he added.

ECO, founded by Iran, Turkey and Pakistan, was joined by five of the Muslim republics of the former Soviet Union earlier this year, with Kazakhstan having an observer status.

Velayati reiterating that Iran will continue its aid to the people and Islamic Government of Afghanistan, said the Islamic Republic supports the security and territorial integrity of Afghanistan in line with the will of the majority of Afghan Mojahedin and people.

He also disclosed that a credit of 50 million dollars will be granted to Afghanistan for purchase of necessary articles.

He said insecurity on the Afghan highways is obstructing sending of more Iranian relief aid to this country, however. Iran has so far sent many plane loads of aid to Afghanistan, he noted.

Communique on Cooperation Released

LD1011113992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] Iran and Afghanistan released a joint communique at the end of Mr. Velayati's visit to Kabul, last night.

According to the communique, Iran and Afghanistan agreed on the establishment of a joint cooperation commission. The two sides also laid emphasis on Afghanistan's membership in the Economic Cooperation Organization

Iranian Technicians Improve Kabul Radio, TV

LD0911171292 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Text] A technical team from the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, sent to Afghanistan for the purpose of expanding radio and television cooperation, has repaired radio transmitters after several days of work

and managed to considerably improve the quality of that country's radio broadcasts. The Voice and Vision's technical team also installed and commissioned a new 500 watt television transmitter. This new transmitter, manufactured in Iran, became operational within two days.

After that, the two sides discussed strengthening practical cooperation and it was decided that both short and long technical and art courses should be set up in Tehran or Kabul for the purposes of training the personnel of Afghanistan's radio and television organization. It was also decided that the news bureau of the Voice and Vision in Kabul should act as a link between Afghanistan's radio and television organization and [Iran's] Voice and Vision organization.

After 12 days in Kabul, the Voice and Vision's technical team returned to Tehran last Thursday [5 November] after conducting an all-round inspection of the technical and production needs of Afghanistan's radio and television.

Official, PRC Charge d'Affaires Discuss Ties

LD0811225592 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Text] Esteemed Dr. Najibollah Lafra'e, minister of state for foreign affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, met with Mr. (Zhanyi), charge d'affaires of the PRC Embassy in Kabul, in his office this morning. A BAKHTAR correspondent reports that, during the meeting, Dr. Lafra'e spoke about the need for and importance of further consolidation of relations between the two countries. The PRC charge d'affaires, noting the installation of the Islamic State in Afghanistan and recent developments, stressed the importance of cooperation between the two countries in various fields, based on mutual interests. He also expressed gratitude for the efforts of the Afghan authorities to release four Chinese experts who were kidnapped in Quetta and taken to Afghanistan.

Ongoing Clashes Reported in Kabul 8 Nov

LD0911154892 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Text] A Radio Message of Freedom correspondent reports from Kabul that clashes between troops of Shura-e Nezar and Hezb-e Wahdat continued yesterday in an area between the Pamir cinema and Hartle bridge in the center of Kabul. [Words indistinct] various types of weapons have been used in the clashes. Many losses were inflicted upon the oppressed people of the area during the clashes. The precise number of dead is not yet known.

India

Velayati, Bhatia Attend Joint Commission Meeting

BK1011110692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] The sixth session of the Indo-Iran Joint Commission began in New Delhi today with a call for specific measures to further consolidate and expand the bilateral cooperation. The Indian side is led by the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, and the Iranian side by his counterpart, Mr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati. In his opening statement, Mr. Bhatia said that the economic reforms launched in both countries have greatly increased the scope for bilateral cooperation.

Minister Criticizes Pakistan's Aiding 'Terrorism'

BK0911125292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Text] The minister of state for home, Mr. M.M. Jacob, has called upon the people of Punjab to take the initiative to restore full normalcy in the state. Addressing media persons in Amritsar today, at the end of his two-day visit to the state, Mr. Jacob said the center will give full support to the state government to fight terrorism. He said after the fencing and other measures to seal the border, infiltration has come to a halt in the Punjab sector. Referring to Pakistan's aiding and abetting terrorism, the minister said it is a main hurdle in the way of cordial relations between New Delhi and Islamabad.

Commentary Views Border Talks With Pakistan

BK0911135392 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Samir Pal commentary]

[Text] Indo-Pakistan talks in New Delhi from 2 to 6 November, beginning with a quest for an agreement on the Line of Control between troops on the two sides in the Siachen Glacier region and the maritime boundary demarcation along the middle of the Sir Creek in Kutch, culminated in a limited forward movement. But possibly for domestic political compulsions, the Pakistani delegation led by Defense Secretary Salim Abbas Gilani did not evince enthusiasm over the progress in terms of the technical details of disengagement and prospects of resolution in the confrontational military positions along the Soltoro ridge on the western side of the Siachen Glacier. The compulsions of the Pakistani negotiating team could perhaps be understood by the caustic observations of the Pakistan president, Ghulam Ishaq Khan, last week when Premier Nawaz Sharif was celebrating completion of two years in power. In such a fluid situation of lack of internal cohesiveness, it would, perhaps, have been suicidal for the team of negotiating

Pakistani bureaucrats to seem to have come to a semblance of agreement with India, particularly when Indian troops were occupying the commanding heights of Soltoro ridge, looking down at Pakistani troop position in a situation of distinct tactical disadvantage at lower heights west of the Soltoro ridge.

Official comment on the Indian side on the concluding day of the negotiations fully articulated the Pakistani predicament with the observation that the Pakistan side was still unable to see the full logic of India's approach. We are trying to work on this and hopefully move forward in the next round of discussions in Islamabad, the Indian spokesman said.

The basic problem that the two sides sought to resolve is the extension of the Line of Control which ends abruptly at the north-south axis between Kapalu on Pakistani side and Sarsoma on the Indian side, north of Leh in Ladakh. The point to base this 1949 cease-fire line delineated by the Karachi agreement ends in mark as NJ-9842 on maps. [sentence as heard] From that point, the agreement referred to the line moving north to the glaciers. The Indian stand is to take the negotiations forward from this specific indication of the direction that their acknowledged Line of Control must take for the remaining 70 km of snow-capped heights across the western edge of the Siachen and Baltoro Glaciers into the territory leased by Pakistan to China in 1963. Both Pakistan and China find this alignment of the Line of Control beyond point NJ-9842 unacceptable.

At the New Delhi negotiations last week, the Indian side led by Defense Secretary N.N. Vohra sought to cite the 1949 Karachi agreement, stipulating the Line of Control moving north to the glaciers and urged recognition of the Soltoro ridge running northwards from point NJ-9842 toward the (Shakargaon) region as the Line of Control. It is pertinent to be observed at this juncture that Islamabad has been demarcating this cease-fire line on its maps as extending from point NJ-9842 in northeasterly direction in the Karakoram Pass north to the Daulatbagh [word indistinct]. This implies, cartographically, wresting control over both Siachen Glacier system and the upper reaches of the Nubra Valley, while Indian troops have been (?there) since well before the 1984 conflict in the region with Pakistani forces maintaining ground control, for it was Indian territory as defined by 1949 Karachi agreement. [sentence as heard] The Pakistani delegation refused to recognize the situation on the ground as it obtains today. Their military mentors cannot countenance conceding the Indian position along the Soltoro ridge top. They cannot afford to have alignment of the Line of Control continuing in the northerly direction beyond point NJ-9842. It will mean giving Indian troops commanding heights over the north, enabling them to look down to the Pakistan-China Highway through the Aksai Chin region. Hence, they dug in their heels to attain the alignment of the Line of Control northeastward encompassing the entire Soltoro ridge—the glacier system into the extension of Pakistan territory.

Discussions on demarcation of the maritime boundary in Sir Creek were conducted in New Delhi on 5 and 6 November. They were essentially of a technical nature. The high tide and low tide configurations of the creek have to be taken into cognizance in the finally marking of the maritime boundary in the region between India and Pakistan.

Commentary Sees Need To Review Foreign Policy

BK0811082492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Commentary by Former Foreign Secretary S.K. Singh]

[Text] Ever since 1988-1989, there have been global changes which were both historic and epochal. Cumulatively, these changes added up to ending the cold-war and creating a wholly new international scene and environment. These changes have come about without any war or fighting or shooting. The impact of these changes has been considerable on the global economic situation too. Clearly, India has to be realistic and pragmatic in viewing this new and complex world. We have also to have a vision of ourselves, our region and the world based on our traditional values and principles and appraisal of the emerging world, of which all the counters of change are not yet clearly discernible.

We have already changed our perceptions of several aspects relating to Israel, Taiwan, and South Africa. We have shown sensitivity to the emerging new realities in Central Asia and keeping in mind the economic and technological weight of Japan and Germany, we have shown a realistic awareness of our interests. Closer home, the process of reappraising our bilateral relations with China is on. Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka are beginning to see the logic of our efforts to build with them a close and mutually advantageous relationship.

Pakistan, however, is passing through a period of serious but subtle internal uncertainty. The inter se power equation between the president, the prime minister and the chief of the army staff of the country remains a little indecipherable, somewhat opaque. Governments in Pakistan have been repeating the slogan—no normalisation of relations with India until after the solution of the Kashmir issue. This has created problems for themselves. Whenever Pakistan wants to solve specific questions with India and appears close to starting a dialogue, there is a clamour from various groups within that country against such a move.

The economic reforms and restructuring undertaken by our government will make India part of the global economic system more than ever before. We need not merely be importers of technology but can be exporters of certain types of technology. Above all, India will need to display the political will to stand firmly rooted to its traditional principles, but not necessarily to each specific policy. There has to be continuity along with flexibility and change in our attitude as a nation as well as in specific policy enunciation. The prime minister was right

in pointing out the other day that our foreign policy has its own complexities and that we must ensure that there is a national consensus to backup whatever fresh nuances we give to our foreign policy.

Minister: India To Set Up SRV Sugar Mill

BK0711084892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Text] India is to set up a sugar mill in Vietnam. This was disclosed by the agriculture minister, Mr. Balram Jakhar, in New Delhi yesterday. He said a memorandum of understanding has already been signed to this effect. Vietnam will provide rice to India in lieu thereof under the agreement.

UN Delegate Voices Concern on Drugs, AIDS

BK0811084292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Text] India has expressed its concern over the growing menace of drugs and drug-related terrorism and AIDS. Addressing the social committee of the UN General Assembly, the Indian delegate Ms. (Saroj Khapaday) said that New Delhi has been uncompromising in fighting this and has extended the maximum possible cooperation to other governments and the world body. She said stringent steps against the drug traffickers through intensified control at land border and international airports has yielded results. She said illicit drugs worth crores of rupees were seized and drug syndicates were broken up. She pointed out that the drug problem can only be dealt with through global action and collective efforts of all the countries.

Iran

Ahmad Khomeyni Says Rushdie Edict 'Irrevocable'

LD0911193292 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Excerpts] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moselemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni this morning met a large number of former POWs from the Law Enforcement Force, Basijis from Mazandaran province, students and pupils at Tehran universities and schools, and various classes of people. [passage omitted]

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moselemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni said that the edict of His Holiness Imam Khomeyni—God have mercy on his soul—on the execution of the apostate Salman Rushdie is, in accordance with the holy religion of Islam, eternal and irrevocable.

He then referred to the plots of world arrogance against Islam and the increasing tendency of oppressed nations to turn to Islam. [passage omitted]

ICO Official Arrives, Discusses Bosnia

LD0911215292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Text] The Secretary General of the Islamic Conference Organization has termed the problem of Bosnia-Herzegovina as a wound in the body of the Islamic countries. He expressed the hope that the people of this region can be saved from the crisis through continuous political efforts.

After arriving in Tehran this evening, Hamid al-Gabid said in an interview with our correspondent that he is delighted to come to Iran. He said that the object of this visit is to attend the Islamic Development Bank conference and to meet Iranian officials. He added: During meetings with officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran we will discuss the future of the Islamic world, the crises facing some Islamic countries such as Bosnia-Herzegovina, and ways of solving these crises.

Red Crescent Head Urges World Relief for Bosnia

LD0711170592 Tehran IRNA in English 1544 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 7, IRNA—President of the Red Crescent Society, Vahid Dastjerdi in separate messages to the worlds' Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies reminded them of their legal and humanitarian tasks regarding blatant Serbian crimes against Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina [B-H].

In these messages Dastjerdi outlined the Serbs' brutal acts against the innocent Muslim civilians including women, infants and the old in B-H.

He also appealed to the international community and world public opinion to confront the Serbs' savagery, "otherwise tomorrow will be too late."

Continuation of the Serb's blatant crimes will be a severe threat not only for Muslims in B-H but also for all humanity and the international community since these brutal acts would become a normal way of fighting during wars, he added.

Welfare Group Offers To Accept Bosnian Children

LD0911160392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1230 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Text] The head of Tehran province's welfare organization has announced that it is prepared to accept a number of children from Bosnia-Herzegovina who have no one to care for them. The head of the organization, who was addressing members of the organization's Islamic Association today, said that the organization will do its utmost to care for the children and will provide them with all the required educational and training

facilities until the situation returns to normal and the children can go back home to Bosnia.

Iraqi Refugees To Receive UN Medical Aid

LD0711134492 Tehran IRNA in English 1252 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Nov. 7, IRNA—The London-based relief organization for assisting Iraqi refugees will send medical aids to the Iraqi refugees settled in the Iranian southern province of Khuzestan, it was announced here Saturday.

Head of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) based in Khuzestan told IRNA here that UNHCR has commissioned an Iraqi doctor to study the medical needs of the refugees lodged in the camps throughout the province.

Parts of the UNHCR aids will be supplied by the London-based organization which provides mainly clothes and medicines.

Iranian-Austrian Cooperation Agreement Signed

LD0811100492 Tehran IRNA in English 0650 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Text] Vienna, Nov. 8, IRNA—Iran and Austria have signed a protocol on expanding bilateral cooperation. The protocol was signed by the Iranian Minister of Industries Mohammed Reza Ne'matzadeh and the Austrian Minister of Economic Affairs Wolfgang Schuessel.

The pact covers economic and scientific cooperation, concessional tariffs on Iranian products, participation in exhibitions and various joint projects. It also provides for the transfer of technology and a proposal for the establishment of an Iranian trade office in the Austrian capital.

The Iranian minister arrived here Wednesday at the head of a high-ranking 6-member delegation, in connection with the third round of the two countries' joint commission.

During his visit Ne'matzadeh was received by the Austrian President Thomas Klestil. He conveyed to Klestil warm greetings of the President of the Islamic Republic Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Klestil reciprocated the good wishes.

He also met the Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock. The Iranian minister told Mock that Austria could reinforce measures in support of Bosnia-Herzegovina at the U.N. Security Council of which Austria is a member. Ne'matzadeh also had talks with his counterpart Victor Klima and the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Joseph Hesoun.

His discussions with the Austrian dignitaries focused on some 18 projects such as the Iran-Turkmenistan gas

pipeline, Mashad-Sarakhs railway, tourism, hotels in Ashgabat, and the manufacture of buses in Turkmenistan.

The Iranian industries minister in an interview with IRNA Saturday commented on the high level of Austrian technology which Iran could benefit from. He stressed that Austria offered a good market for the Islamic republic's non-oil products and their export potential should be developed.

The Iranian Ambassador to Austria Mehdi Safari told IRNA that the Iranian trade delegation comprising businessmen from the trade chambers and companies had useful talks with Austrian importers.

Trade deals were signed including an agreement valued at 400,000 U.S. dlrs for the export of garlic from Iran, and an export agreement worth 250,000 dlrs by the national shoe company.

An Iranian radiator manufacturing firm is expected to sign shortly an agreement for the export of radiators worth 20 million dlrs.

Ne'matzadeh left for Tehran Saturday after his 4-day official visit, which was at the invitation of the Austrian minister of economic affairs.

Anti-Drug Memo Signed With Germany

LD0911233292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Text] A memorandum of understanding has been signed between the Iranian judicial branch and Germany on cooperation and research in the field of legal and judicial issues, mutual visits by the two countries' experts and [judicial] delegations, and exchange of information on drugs trafficking.

This was announced at a meeting of the judicial branch authorities today. During this meeting, the head of the judicial branch, Mr. Yazdi, while offering condolences on the anniversary of the martyrdom of Fatimah, peace be upon her, asked the Muslim nation of Iran to assist their Muslim Bosnian brothers.

Conference on Electrical Technology Opens

LD0711204792 Tehran IRNA in English 1643 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 7, IRNA—The seventh international conference to review the latest technological achievements in the field of electricity was opened here today by Energy Minister Bijan Namdar-Zanganeh.

Zanganeh said in his inaugural address described the increasing need of electricity in today's world as vital for economic development plans and the moving of the wheels of industry. "Building new power plants and increasing the generation of electricity is necessary," he added.

Referring to environmental problems, he underscored the need for the substitution of fossil fuels by other sources of energy, and said electrical industries must be restructured in this regard.

On the indices of power production in the country, he said power output was 1,997 megawatts in the calendar year (1971-72), which rose to 15,202 megawatts during the first half of the current year (Sept. 22).

During the said period, the number of electrified villages rose from 382 to 25,469, increasing domestic energy consumption from 4,519 megawatts to 27,023 megawatts, and the number of subscribers from 1,520,000 to 10,310,000.

According to Mohammad Mallaki, head of the power generation and distribution company (Tavanir), said that electricity officials and experts from 30 countries are participating in the 3-day conference.

Illegal Housing, Shops Destroyed in Tehran

LD0911201492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1230 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Text] In coordination with the law enforcement forces and other relevant organizations, the municipality of Tehran's district 18 today destroyed over 140 shops and houses which were being built illegally in the township [shahrak] of Nowruzabad, situated between the old Karaj road and the southern Tehran beltway.

Pakistan

Kanjoo Discusses Visit to UAE, Saudi Arabia

BK0911144692 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Text] The minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, has said Pakistan's position on the Kashmir issue is well understood in the Gulf states whose leadership has reiterated their support for the right of self-determination of the Kashmiri people. In a statement on his return to Islamabad from a tour of the UAE [United Arab Emirates] and Saudi Arabia, he said these states share Pakistan's concern on the nonimplementation of the UN resolutions and the Indian refusal of a negotiated settlement of the dispute. During his meetings with the UAE and Saudi leaders, situation in Afghanistan and Bosnia-Herzegovina also came up for discussion. The role of ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] in ending genocide in Bosnia was explored during the talks. Mr. Kanjoo said the second meeting of the Pakistan-UAE joint ministerial commission would be held in Abu Dhabi in the near future.

Bangladesh Navy Chief Meets Khan, Defense Head

BK0411143292 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Text] The chief of naval staff of Bangladesh, Rear Admiral M. Mohaimenul Islam, called on the president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, in Islamabad today. During the meeting, they exchanged views on ways and means to promote cooperation between the navies of the two countries. The Bangladesh naval chief expressed his profound grief and sympathy over the loss of numerous lives in the recent floods, PIA [Pakistan International Airlines] plane crash, and the train accident. The Bangladesh naval chief of staff also called on the defense minister, Syed Ghous Ali Shah, in Islamabad today. During the meeting, they discussed matters of bilateral interest.

UN Delegate Discusses Measures To Fight Drugs

BK0811094092 Karachi DAWN in English 8 Nov 92 p 8

[Text] United Nations, Nov 7—Success in the international fight against drug abuse and trafficking might well depend not only on such traditional means in interdicting drug traffic, but also on the success of efforts to alleviate poverty and achieve economic well-being in developing countries, the General Assembly's Social Committee was told on Friday night.

Pakistani delegate Mohammad Saned Ansari said that, while it was true that curtailing cultivation, production and trafficking was essential it was also true that such measure needed to be taken in tandem with the provision of alternative economic opportunities for the growers of drug crops. It was often difficult to find cash-crop substitutes whose value was comparable to the crops to be replaced.

In addition, Ansari said if cultivation were to be encouraged to produce substitute crops, they must get a fair price and better access to international markets. As the Secretary-General had said, he said it was not enough to destroy an opium crop or a coca plant, something else must be substituted for it, something that was as financially attractive to the cultivator as opium or coca.

The Pakistani delegate said no strategy to control the drug menace could succeed without taking all manifestations of the problem into account. The production and supply of illicit narcotic drugs was inextricably linked to the demand for the substances, he said. It was virtually impossible to curtail production and supply as long as the demand existed and the dividends of the illicit trade remained so lucrative.

Furthermore, Ansari said, in recent years the distinction between producing and consuming states had become increasingly blurred. Traditional producers or transit states were facing an increase in demand, while traditional consumers were becoming involved in drug production, particularly of psychotropic substance.

Pakistan had not been immune to the spreading cancer of narcotic drugs, Ansari said. To address the growing menace, administration and enforcement mechanisms had been considerably strengthened. The Anti-Narcotic Task Force had been set up, with power to search, investigate and arrest those involved in the drug trade, with Pakistan's Narcotics Control Board remaining the supervisor body for drug-related activities.

As a result of intensified interdiction measures, he said, law enforcement agencies seized 580 tonnes of opium, 6.67 tonnes of heroin and 236.87 tonnes of marijuana in 1991, a substantial increase over the previous year.

In the region, he said, Pakistan was a party to the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) convention on narcotic drugs. Of course, no strategy to eliminate drug abuse would be complete without a programme to rehabilitate the victims of drug abuse. As present, 30 detoxification centres were operating throughout the country and more were planned, he added.

President Denies Praising Sharif Government

BK0611153392 Islamabad THE NATION in English 6 Nov 92 pp 1, 4

[Text] Lahore—President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has said if the people feel that the government has failed to deliver what was expected of it "they should better call them back."

The President observed this while talking to journalists at the wedding of the daughter of Minn Muhammad Ashraf in Lahore on Thursday evening.

"When did I say that Nawaz Sharif is going well?" President Ishaq said when his attention was drawn to his recent statement about the present government. "I have never said that Nawaz Sharif is going well. It could be your interpretation", he repeated in reconfirm his statement.

Though the majority of the politicians were not ready to comment on the President's statement, it was shocking for most of them to listen "something very damaging from a man who has earlier been supporting the IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] Government."

They were avoiding journalists, but at the dinner table it was the main issue of discussion among Federal and provincial ministers. "You might have misunderstood the President but if at all he has said it is something very serious. We all should think over it," was the safe comment by these people.

Replying to another question, President Ghulam Ishaq Khan ruled out the possibility of the imposition of martial law in the country, saying, "No. It is your death wish. But I don't see that the country is heading for military rule."

Asked whether he was satisfied with the prevalent political situation in the country, he said his satisfaction did not really matter, it was something to be decided by the people of Pakistan. "If they think their elected representatives are not doing well they should call them back."

This was the point which even the politicians couldn't properly understand with many believing that 'Ishaq is indirectly supporting the Opposition's agitational movement against the government.'

Punjab Housing Minister Oh Nazir was blunt enough to say, "If President Ishaq is not satisfied he may go ahead with his action, saddu Allah malik aay fithay saray jan gay asi we nanl ei sare." [Punjabi for: God will take care of us and provide for our victory]

"He should not forget that by supporting agitation against the government" President would be creating problems for his reelection," grim treasury member Oh Wajid Ali remarked.

It was something really unbelievable for Speaker Main Manzoor Ahmad Watto and Revenue Minister Arshad Khan Lodhi, but both of them committed to comment after reading it in Friday's newspapers. "Call me at 786 in Wasanwalwali. I will give my reaction," Mr. Watto promised.

When the President was asked that there was a strong rumour in the political and journalistic circles that he had a major role in the formation of the NDA [National democratic Alliance], he said, "Better asked this question from the NDA leaders."

To a question, President Ishaq Khan said besides NPP [National People's Party] Chief Ghulam Mustafa Jatal he had very good relations with many other Opposition leaders. "How does this prove that NDA has been formed on my indication?" he wondered.

Asked if he had formed his separate group in the National Assembly, he said: "You people could better tell me because I am listening this news from you. As far as I know there are only two groups in the Parliament and they are the Opposition and the Treasury."

He drew blank when asked about his contesting for the Presidency in March 1993. He only confined himself to saying that he had already answered this question many times before. "I am in front of you", was his reply to a questioner who seemed worried about his health.

About Bill Clinton's success in the US, he said, "Individuals do not matter much in foreign affairs, as it is the interest of a State that matters in the long run." He said, "We were keen for better relations with the US in keeping with our national interests."

However, he referred to US President elect Clinton's latest statement in which he had said that he would continue with Bush's foreign policy.

AFP added: President Ghulam Ishaq Khan said that it was for the people to judge the performance of the government. Talking to newsmen informally at the marriage ceremony of daughter of Mian Mohammad Ashraf, brother of Punjab Governor Main Modhammad Azhar, here he said, "I cannot say anything about the performance of the government and people who elected the government are the best judges."

Illegal Immigrants Send Home \$528 Million Yearly

BK0411120692 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 4 Nov 92 p 12

[Excerpt] Islamabad—About 2.5 million illegal immigrants in Karachi are sending home over \$528 million annually through illegal means, said a survey conducted recently by the Media and Marketing Consultants.

The Karachi-based firm says the Bangladeshis outnumber all other nationals as about two million of them are working illegally in the private sector. The rest are Indians, Sri Lankans and some Africans.

The immigrants usually work as domestic servants, cooks and drivers. Some of them have also set up small shops. Thousands of them own sugarcane juice stalls scattered all over the city. They do a brisk business in Karachi's long summer, from March to October.

The survey report, sent to Interior Minister Chaudhary Shujat Hussain, says that immigrant workers are also entering the poultry business and are working as dish washers, waiters and cooks. The report says the immigrants are now also working in construction industry. [passage omitted]

Minister Views Privatization, Economic Growth

BK0711093792 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Text] Federal Finance Minister Sartaj Aziz has said the privatization policy is a corrective process and the government is correcting social imbalances through it. Talking to APP [Associated Press of Pakistan] in Islamabad yesterday, he said that despite many difficulties, so far 57 units have been sold, 47 others transferred, and five are being transferred.

The finance minister said Pakistan has reached the threshold of the faster growth rate and is fully capable of crossing this threshold. He said our economic growth rate could reach seven percent a year. He said Pakistan is located in a region where it could become a doorstep for landlocked countries of Central Asia because most of these countries' trade would pass through Karachi.

Sri Lanka

Tamil Group Suggests Solution to Ethnic Conflict

BK0911161492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization—TELO—has expressed its willingness to accept demerger of the two Tamil majority provinces temporarily merged under the terms of Indo-Sri Lanka accord. This is the first time the Tamils suggest a solution to the island's ethnic conflict. In an interview with the Colombo daily published today, a spokesman of TELO said the organization has also proposed two separate provincial councils for the north and the east with a single elected executive governor. He said TELO has called a meeting of a group of seven Tamil political parties to discuss the proposal.

Premadasa Receives Bangladesh Foreign Minister

BK0811125692 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in Tamil 1045 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Text] Bangladesh Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman yesterday called on President Ranasinghe Premadasa at the Presidential Secretariat in Colombo and extended an invitation from Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia for the seventh SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit to be held in Dhaka next month. Also present on the occasion was the Bangladesh high commissioner in Sri Lanka, S.M. Chowdhury, and the director of SAARC at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, (Nihal Rodrigo).

Consultations With EC To Be Held 24-25 Nov

BK0911130092 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Text] The European Economic Commission—EEC—will hold bilateral consultation with Sri Lanka in Colombo on the 24th and 25th of this month. A spokesman for the Federation of Exporters Associations of Sri Lanka told LANKAPUVATH that the EEC has also agreed to a two-day seminar on the 26th and 27th of this month at the Federation's request. On the 26th of November, EEC speakers will emphasize specific issues such as the new standards, legal requirements, free movement of goods within the EEC, border dispute, establishment of businesses, registration, appointment of agents, cost from country to country within the EEC in the case of the apparel sector, and the possibility of a single quota for the EEC. On the 27 November, a seminar on specific products will be held. The products included are, among others, garments, processed fruits and vegetables, rubber, and several local products.

'Huge' Defense Expenditures Widen Budget Deficit

BK0711153592 Hong Kong AFP in English 1237 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Text] Colombo, Nov 6 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan Government Friday announced generous pay hikes coupled with higher taxes and sought domestic and foreign loans to bridge the budget deficit made worse by an ongoing guerrilla war.

Prime Minister Dingiri Banda Wijetunga told parliament that the budget deficit for 1993 would be 91.49 billion rupees (2.06 billion dollars), up from 71.43 billion rupees (1.61 billion dollars rupees) this year.

Wijetunga said he was meeting the shortfall through foreign loans and grants and "non-inflationary" domestic borrowings. He did not specify the source of foreign loans.

"The terrorism confronting us in the north and the east is denying the people vast resources for development," Wijetunga said. "At least 12 billion rupees annually would immediately become available when peace is restored."

Wijetunga said he would give a 30 percent salary increase to all public sector employees on a staggered basis from January to July, when the full increase would be paid. All pensioners were to be paid an additional 300 rupees (6.70 dollars).

As government MPs thumped tables in applause, opposition legislators demanded why a similar increase of 270 rupees for pensioners announced during last year's budget had not yet been paid.

"Higher salary increases to all could have been given had it not been for the huge sums spent on defence and security," Wijetunga said, adding that the 18 billion rupees budgeted for defence this year might not be enough.

A senior minister announced Thursday that defence spending had risen to 24 billion rupees (540 million dollars) this year, up from the original estimate of 15 billion rupees (337 million dollars).

Wijetunga proposed a rationalisation of sales tax bands, substantially raising prices by placing most consumer goods on a 20 percent tax band, replacing existing selective sales taxes of five, 10 and 15 percent.

The prime minister also said there would be higher import tariffs on several items, but did not say what items would have increased customs duties, or by how much they would be levied.

Wijetunga, however, said he expected the new taxation structure to bring in additional revenues of 200 million rupees (4.49 million dollars).

The government's total spending for 1993 was estimated at 196.28 billion rupees (4.41 billion dollars) compared to 165.53 billion rupees (3.71 billion dollars) this year.

'Breakthrough' Reached at Hong Kong Jewelry Fair

*BK0911124992 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation
International Service in English 1045 GMT 9 Nov 92*

[Text] Sri Lanka's first-ever breakthrough in the Hong Kong market has been a success as the State Gem

Corporation-sponsored Sri Lanka pavilion at the 10th Hong Kong Jewelry and Watch Fair has earned U.S. \$750,000. The more spectacular event of the industry in Asia, the fair itself was an unparalleled convergence of 1,100 leading manufacturers from over 35 countries and 35,000 high-caliber buyers from all over the world.